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The Alabamian

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Friday, August 23, 2019

Montevallo continues to expand academic programs

By ARIEL HALL



Picking a major is one of the most important decisions a new student makes when they come to college and often one of the most stressful. While some students know what they want to do when getting to their respective university, not everyone knows what they should study. Of course, some people change their major all the time. Being limited to just one thing can be daunting, so the challenge of choosing the right major can be that much more difficult.

UM offers many great majors and programs, but there are a few new programs that show promise.

While no new majors will be offered during the 2019-20 academic year, a computer science major will be offered beginning next fall.

The College of Education is currently working on approval for different certification and master's programs as well, according to Amanda Fox, UM's registrar.

"When a department or program is looking to create a new major or minor, they have to survey a target group of students so they know that there is an interest," said Fox. "Once the semester starts, and they have a chance to advertise, I think the potential the new programs will grow. Since there are currently 30 computer informatics majors at UM, I think there is a lot of potential for growth for computer science too," said Fox.

Students who are looking into such fields may also want to know options after graduation. There are several niches in the computer science field, such as computer programming or web development or software engineer. Employment of computer and information technology occupations is projected to grow 13% from 2016 to 2026 on a national level, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

According to the BLS, approximately 40,000 people are currently employed in computer and mathematics fields in Alabama. In the Birmingham-Hoover area, 12,000 are employed in those fields. The annual average income for these jobs is roughly $80,000 per year as of May 2017.

Minors offered this year include computer informatics, computer science and marketing. The new digital filmmaking minor will include a certification option as well. There are few students declared with such minors as of right now.

"I think the changes in technology and as society becomes more technologically involved, these majors make sense. I hope that it doesn't change the liberal arts mission of the University. Employers want to hire trainable people, who have good communication skills," said Dr. Ruth Truss, interim dean of UM's College of Arts and Sciences. "Schools are probably going to have to change to potential students' needs, but I hope Montevallo continues to build on its foundation."

According to Truss, a peace and justice studies minor is also in the works, and hopefully will be offered next fall.

If students are interested in any of the new up and coming programs, they can discuss it with their faculty advisor or contact the registrar's office, which is located upstairs in Palmer Hall.

UM students sieze internship opportunities

By JAMIE BROWDER, Managing editor of content



According to College Recruiter, 75% of college students participate in internships. From social media to Capitol Hill, Students of UM were no exception this summer.

Kristen Lively worked with bridal fashion designer Heidi Elnora in Birmingham. Elnora is known for being on Project Runway and having her own show on TLC called Bride by Design.

The bridal shop located in Birmingham provided Lively with an opportunity to sew, help brides develop their dresses and conceptualize visual merchandising.

"Sometimes we sewed for 8 hours a day, but it was all worth it to see a bride smile at her fitting. It was a surreal feeling to see a bride wearing what you made," said Lively.

Lively said she has always wanted to work in the bridal industry, and, out of all of the bridal shops she applied to work at, Heidi Elnora Atelier felt the most right for her and the experience she wanted to gain.

"Internships also provide you knowledge outside of the scope of your typical classes. We can speak theoretic all day, but using the information you've learned in class and extending it to real world situations proves most valuable," said Lively.

She advised people not see internships as something scary because the experience is more than what movies show. She believes if someone finds the right internship, the relationship between the company and internship should be mutually beneficial.

According to Lively, showing interest and taking initiative to reach out to companies who don't previously have internships programs could result in new opportunities.

"Don't be afraid to ask! If a company you'd love to work for doesn't currently offer internships, contact them and ask anyways. Just showing interest in them sets you up for future success," said Lively about possible opportunities.

For Stephanie Dickson, reaching out to receive her internship opportunity was everything.

Dickson took a chance when the couple mentioned they needed an assistant, and landing herself an internship by messaging them with her resume.

The couple, Whitney & Megan Bacon-Evans, has over 44,000 subscribers on their YouTube channel called What Wegan Did Next.

So far, Dickson has been helping the women run their business by answering emails about potential collaborations with brands and sending information out about what the couple's channel is. She also runs a weekly Instagram story called Find Femme of the Week on their Find Femmes page.

"I really enjoy the work that I'm doing because I'm learning more about the business side of social media influencing. It's really great practice to see how an established brand runs their brand, and how I can apply that to my own platforms in the future," said Dickson.

In the future, she will be helping edit and will do more social media take-overs for the couple.

Dickson will continue her internship through the school year, and will eventually take on editing videos and doing Instagram takeovers for Wegan.

She feels like the stakes in her career now are significantly higher because her work takes place outside of the classroom because she can see how it directly affects the world.

Kelly Garrett picked WVTM this summer to focus on becoming a producer. She considers her experience there something that was essential for her before she graduated because she plans to be a producer.

"I knew I wanted to participate in an internship to be able to get the real-world experience in the news industry before I graduated," said Garrett.

Her day-to-day involved shadowing producers while they searched for stories, attending meetings, writing stories and executing the news show.

"Take advantage of all the opportunities you can wherever you intern and try out multiple areas in the organization, you may find your favorite position somewhere you never thought of before," said Garrett.

As part of the College to Congress program Kendall Criswell spent the summer in Washington, DC at Capitol Hill.

Criswell realized how important it is to be the first person that people see when they enter an office. She shared that it was important for her to be her best self for every person that walked in because making connections is important.

In addition to working the front desk, Criswell answered calls from constituents and conducted policy research on important issues. She also took meetings in place of the Legislative Assistant.

She shared that the most important part of her internship was the connections she made and networking she accomplished.

"Making connections with people you meet during an internship can help you in the future when you are applying for jobs," said Criswell. She believes that it's important to know a lot of people who can provide great recommendations for working hard at an internship.

Criswell also commented on how hard it can be to feel like an internship is something someone can't handle.

"You will always find out that you are meant to be doing the work your internship lets you do. Just go for it. You are so capable of being a young professional and making a great impression," said Criswell.

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Viewpoints

Letter from the editor

By WAID JONES, Editor-in-chief

Editors, journalists and you our readers have an interesting relationship, and from both sides we look at it differently. The reader expects a product to be delivered. They want to be informed and, if possible, entertained.

To editors and journalists there is an underlying drive, something you could almost call an obsession, with the truth. Every journalist that I have met in my time at The Alabamian, going from a writer, to copy editor, managing editor and finally in my current position as editor-in-chief could be reasonably described as a nosey person. But it goes far beyond just being "nosey."

All of them have been tenacious fighters for fact, looking at everything they see for a root cause for something that's pushing a relationship. They always ask why, and are constantly looking for more information.

This drives almost every aspect of a journalist's life. They stop on the road when they see something that looks out of place, sneak in and try to understand what's going on. When we did this in Minneapolis, we were met with a wonderful story, other times the stories are much darker and harder to tell.

This creates relationship with the truth that often causes them to be at odds with most, and sometimes our even readers. Hard facts remain difficult to make palatable, editorial statements are complex and often misunderstood and context can be hard to relay in the given words allotted.

Our job at its heart is to fight for and find the truth. This creates a duty to our readers that drives us to inform and explain, to push forward when a lot of backlash exists against us in the country.

In this way their relationship to facts defines our relationships to our jobs and our reader.

This year it is the mission of the editorial staff of The Alabamian to present students with hard hitting investigative journalism and excellent editorial design. Over the summer we redesigned how our leadership is structured to do this. So that we can better collect and distribute the news to UM students.

Because of this, I highly recommend that you follow us on social media. I am, however, biased on the topic. I also recommend if anything that I've said relates you that you come by the Student Publications Office in Farmer and talk to us about joining The Alabamian staff.

This newspaper and the people in it are why I belong at Montevallo, and I hope they can be the same thing for you.

Waid Jones, editor-in-chief

Letter from the SGA president

By OLIVIA ELDRIDGE

Hi everyone!

I'm so excited to be back on campus with you all. To our new students, welcome to Montevallo! I look forward to getting to know everyone in the coming weeks as you find your place in our family. Montevallo truly is a home away from home. To everyone returning, welcome back! I hope you've had great summers and are as happy to be here as I am. We have a lot of exciting things happening this year and I can't wait to share these experiences with you.

As we start this new year, I encourage everyone to get involved on campus. Our university has a very diverse group of student organizations that you can be a part of. Getting involved will allow you to meet new people, make new friends and learn more about yourself. With over 90 student organizations, there really is a place for everyone.

As the year continues, I ask that you keep SGA in mind. If you see something on campus that you want changed, let us know! If you have questions about anything, ask us! We are here to make Montevallo an even better place for students and do our best job when we have input from you. The more informed we are about what is happening on campus, the more effective we can be.

Additionally, keep a look out for SGA WOW Weekends! These weekends involve free events hosted by SGA. We have several fun events planned for the year and I hope to see you there! Follow us on social media, look on SGA's FalconLink page, or watch for flyers posted in residence halls and academic buildings to see when the next event is.

While you're settling into, or returning to college life, I also encourage you to remember that we are here for an education. It's easy to get caught up in the fun stuff but it's also important to remember our academic responsibilities. Montevallo's liberal arts education encourages unconventional thinking, creative problem solving and advanced adaptability. There are many resources on campus designed to help us succeed. Professors have numerous office hours and are very willing to help. There is free tutoring offered at the Learning Enrichment Center in the library. Please take advantage of these opportunities and make the most of the exceptional education Montevallo provides.

Again, I'm so excited to start this year with you all and I cannot wait to see what's in store for us. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns throughout the year. I'm so honored to be able serve as your SGA President and I am always happy to help in any way I can. Get involved, study hard, and enjoy the place we all call home. It's going to be a great year!

Orange is the New Black

By JAMIE BROWDER, Managing editor of content

The "Orange is the New Black" ended this summer after 7 seasons. It leaves behind a legacy of addressing social, political and national issues. One of the biggest things it provided was representation of the LGBT community.

When "Orange is the New Black" hit Netflix in the summer of 2013, it was among the few shows that included both gay and trans people.

It was reported in July to Variety that 105 million people have watched at least one episode of it on Netflix.

"Orange is the New Black" hinged on the idea that it was sharing stories of women that had never been shared before. The has consistently put a mirror up to America for the last 7 years.

Whether you love or hate Alex, Piper and the other lesbians featured in the show, they changed the game for representation.

This isn't to erase pivotal lesbians from shows like "ER," "Grey's Anatomy," "The L Word" or any other show that features gay characters, though.

But there was something special about lesbians who were uncensored and featured on television that a large number of people were tuning in to watch. I believe so many people were there for this show in the beginning because it was during the turning point between old-school cable and seeing streaming services as valid storytelling platforms.

Piper and Alex are my favorite point of reference for the show because neither die. It's a common trope called Dead Lesbian Syndrome that spans across fiction featuring lesbians to kill one or both characters off. I'm looking at you "The 100," "Jane the Virgin" and "Vampire Diaries."

In 2016 it was noted that 25 lesbian and bisexual characters were killed on television and streaming services. GLAAD president and CEO Sarah Kate Ellis commented on this phenomenon by sharing how "Most of these deaths served no other purpose than to further the narrative of a more central (and often straight, cisgender) character. When there are so few lesbian and bisexual women on television, the decision to kill these characters in droves sends a toxic message about the worth of queer female stories," said Ellis.

While it could be argued that Poussey died in season 4 as part of this "bury your gays" movement, I only feel that her death was a part of a bigger social movement that needed to be addressed. It mirrored both the unsafe conditions of prisons, the unfair justice of black women in America and the fight against police brutality.

At times, it wasn't the perfect representation. "Orange is the New Black" did a fair amount of erasing bisexuality as a valid sexuality. Piper, who began the story with a male as her partner, was immediately just called a "lesbian" when she started having a relationship with Alex. In later seasons, as she continues to go between men and women, it seems as if she never identified as bisexual, nor would any other characters call her this.

There isn't a world in which I would claim that "Orange is the New Black" did everything perfectly in its seven-year run, but I am grateful for the handful of lesbians that it produced for television. Nicky, Lorna, Poussey, Big Boo, Daddy, Daya, Suzanne and all of the other female characters who represented the lesbian community changed the lives of people like me.

For me, when I saw people at my school who would watch it during breaks, something in the back of my mind would say "maybe they won't hate you or think you're disgusting, if they can watch this, they can accept you." While I never inquired about people's feelings of the LGBT themes of "Orange is the New Black," I still acknowledged the fact that at least they were being exposed to it.

I'm grateful for the hopeful ending that Alex and Piper got.

I'm grateful that all of the lesbian characters were allowed be gay, but also strong.

Since "Orange is the New Black" began, Netflix has created wildly successful shows such as "House of Cards," "Stranger Things," "13 Reasons Why" and rebooted several shows that were cancelled on traditional cable. I hope that after the ending of "Orange is the New Black," Netflix finds another way to share stories of people who need to be heard in this country.

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Montevallo City Council ends curbside recycling

By WAID JONES, Editor-in-chief

Montevallo city council approved a measure to discontinue the curbside recycling during a council meeting on Monday, Aug. 12, upon the recommendation of the finance committee.

Earlier this year it was revealed that curbside recycling in Montevallo was not going to a recycling plant but was instead going to a landfill. At that point the city began looking into alternative measures and ultimately chose to discontinue the services on Sunday, Sept. 15.

It was noted in the meeting that the service was only used by around 40% of residents and would have cost the city over $100,000, and the price of trash pickup services would have increased for all residents by $4.92.

It was also mentioned that creating a system that residents could opt into curbside recycling was not administratively feasible and would have added substantially more cost to the program.

"None of us want to vote for this, but we don't seem to have any other options," said Mayor Hollie Cost before calling the vote to discontinue the service. Cost noted that the instatement of city-wide recycling was what got her into local government, making this an especially difficult blow to the mayor.

The measure passed 5-1 with Councilwoman Tiffany Bunt, District 3, abstaining from the vote. Bunt cited a personal reservation against letting go of curbside recycling in Montevallo.

The city did approve a position of "Sustainability Coordinator." One of the position's first jobs would be to examine the possibilities available to return to a curbside recycling as well as to look at other efforts that would help the city to become more sustainable.

During the meeting the council also approved a zoning ordinance that modifies a prior the special district at the intersection of Commanche and Overland Road in Montevallo. The measure passed 4-1, with Councilman Rusty Nix, of District 1, voting against, and Councilman Willy Goldsmith, District 2, abstaining.

The ordinance allows Hardy Properties to conduct a site survey and traffic study on a new apartment complex at the intersection next to an existing development.

Hardy Properties hopes to construct three 10-unit apartments on the property, which will include eight two-bedroom apartments and two one-bedroom apartments each. The apartments will be marketed to a variety of individuals seeking housing including both students and community members.

Micky Hardy, owner of Hardy Properties, noted that his company has seen an increase in desire for one-bedroom apartments in Montevallo.

Numerous citizens voiced concerns during a public hearing that occurred prior to the council meeting. Residents living on Comanche street and neighboring areas expressed concern about how this may affect property values of those close to the area.

The council awarded a contract to begin work on a new strategic development plan to the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham. The organization will work with local stake holders and the city to determine a plan that will allow the city to continue to grow.

The city's strategic plan was last updated in 2012.

The plan will assist city planners in Montevallo in directing new developments and understanding what the citizens want. The process will include a number of public forums where citizens can give their input on proposed changes.

A representative from the US Census was also present at the meeting mentioning that there will be paid positions with the census. The representative also reminded those present that it is essential for everyone to get counted.

The next city council meeting will take place on Sept. 26 at 6 p.m. with a work session scheduled at 5:30 p.m. The city's planning committee will meet on Sept. 12 at 6 p.m. Both meetings will take place in Montevallo's City Hall.

UM board approves spending increase

By WAID JONES, Editor-in-chief

UM's Board of trustees approved spending increases across the board, while board chair Todd Strange cautioned that the University was dipping dangerously into its reserves and would need to increase charitable giving in the future.

Scott Dillard, director of University Advancement, assured the board of trustees that giving was up this year, and that year over year giving continues to rise though often donors earmark donations for specific projects.

Included in these spending increases was a 2% increase in the salary pool for UM faculty and staff. Faculty will receive an increase automatically, while staff will receive a pay increase based on merit.

The University of Montevallo Board of trustees approved a $400,000 project to examine renovations of Harman Hall and a $3 million project to construct a new residence hall. Both projects remain early in their planning phases.

"We appreciate we have the option to provide students the traditional housing at a less expensive cost," said Denson in an email to The Alabamian, "but with the high demand from students preferring the suite/apartment style living puts the University at a disadvantage in both recruitment and retention of students."

The new Residence Hall will be able to provide these housing options for students.

Proposed modifications to Harman Hall will update the labs and classrooms to make them more competitive with other University's facilities.

Construction continues for UM with a ribbon cutting planned for the Center for the Arts on April 14, 2020, and groundbreaking planned for early this fall on an addition to the Stephens College of Business.

Money for these projects will come from the University of Montevallo Foundation and other donations and endowments,

The UM Foundation has over $43 million currently in an investment account managed by Merrill Lynch. The foundation's Paul Doran noted that the account had made a 12% net return since the beginning of the year and that removing funds from the account to, "avoid financial hardship on the University" was an overall good investment.

Money was also allocated by the UM Foundation to assist the University in various construction and maintenance projects around campus. These projects include internal and external maintenance on residence halls as well as upkeep on the brick streets and sidewalks around campus.

Strange noted that while the spending may seem excessive, that it positions the University to be ready and prepared for the future.

The Board also approved a new social media management minor and the naming of two rooms in Morgan Hall.

The board also approved the naming of a future classroom in the expansion of Morgan Hall, The Central State Bank Classroom, and the Time and Ellen Lupinacci Board Room. It was also announced that a theater space in the Center for the Arts will be named the DiscoverShelby Performance Hall and Theatre.

Toni Leo of the Student Services Committee also noted that there were a record number of students who applying for scholarships for the 2019-2020 academic year. This prompted a change in the evaluation of need and merit for scholarships, and creates a necessity for donors to the University to give with unrestricted amounts so that money donated can be more efficiently allocated.

A minor in social media administration was approved by the board. The minor which would be housed in Communication Department will consist of 18 total credit hours in a combination of Mass Communication and Communication Studies Courses.

It is projected that the program will require the hiring of one new full-time faculty member within the first five years.

Administrative changes to the rules and regulations governing student organizations was also approved by the board during the meeting.

The UM Board of Trustees will meet again in the Merril Board Room, in Reynolds Hall, on Nov. 1, 2019. The meeting is open to all members of the University community.

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Sports

Men's soccer preview

By WAID JONES, Editor-in-chief



Liam Moore, handling the ball in last fall's game against St Leo.

The University of Montevallo's Men's Soccer team is ranked sixth in the Gulf South Conference's Preseason Polls. Men's Soccer Head Coach Bruce Dietterle thinks that while this is fair, it's still low for where the team is at now.

"The problem for [the other coaches] is that they don't know the dynamic we created in the spring and they don't know the players we're bringing in. We won't finish ninth," said Dietterle adding, "This group that we've put together is special."

With nine seniors on the team, the Falcons have an older returning core of players and Dietterle feels that they have added players that will help push the team to perform higher than rated.

"I'm very excited for this season, a lot of the reasons come from the large number of upperclassmen we have, last year we didn't have many real seniors," said Dietterle. "We definitely have a big group of older mature players that could contribute, and if history tells us anything those tend to be good years."

The coach says that the staff focused their recruiting this year around athleticism. Players recruited this year were in players who would be able to flex between different positions.

The team targeted players who could flex between a couple different positions allowing them to have much more diverse options for offensive and defensive strategies on the field. This can allow the team to

Part of the coach's excitement surrounding this year's team involves an institutional change that the coaching staff decided to implement.

During the Spring semester of 2019 the Falcons coaching staff made a change to how the team appoints captains by doing away with the position almost completely. Instead the team has moved to what they call a "Player's Union" format for team leadership.

In this style five of the team's players were named leaders. The coaching staff looked for leadership aspects that they valued in students and chose them based on what they saw.

"We didn't create these characteristics in [the players]," said Dietterle, "they were already there."

These players now all act together as the team's "captain", and Dietterle says he has already seen improvements in the Falcons play and cohesion. The coach noted that this has brought out positive characteristics in other players on the team and creates new and aspiring leaders on and off the field by bringing some students out of their shell.

Even with the changes the Deitterle has made to the team, the Falcons will be met with a particularly difficult schedule this year.

"Everyone is going to be a difficult game," said Dietterle adding that because of the closeness that the Gulf South's coaches have it's easy often easy to see who the biggest opponents will be and he feels that many of the opponents have been able to make good strides with their recruiting and retention of players this year.

The Falcons will play their first three games at home this year, starting with Florida Southern University at 7 p.m. on Sept. 6, before going on the road to face Clayton State University in Morrow, Georgia on Thursday, Sept. 19.

Women's soccer preview

By WAID JONES, Editor-in-chief

The strong returning core of the women's soccer team will be complemented by 10 incoming freshmen players. The team, young in comparison to others in the league, will have 16 freshmen and sophomores.

The new players will be joined by new head and assistant coaches.

Jake Wyman was promoted to head coach when Robert Lane resigned from the position to join the University of Georgia as an assistant coach. John Robertson joined the program as an assistant coach; he was previously an assistant coach in UAB's women's soccer program.

"Having being named head coach in January was great," said Wyman, who hopes that this creates less of a jarring transition as a coach. "And because I've recruited all of these players that's made it all a lot smoother"

This allows the coaching team to smoothly move into their preparation for their first game of the season and what will likely turn into a difficult schedule. The young team will have to navigate what Wyman described as one of the most difficult schedules in the Gulf South Conference.

With a third of the team incoming freshmen, some may see a relatively young group of players as a disadvantage. Wyman sees this as an opportunity and a major strength of the team.

"The one thing I really like about a young team is that they don't really know who's good or who's not and they don't really care. They're just here to play and they have a certain fearlessness to them that's exciting," said Wyman about his excitement for the incoming freshmen.

The first eight games of the UM Women's soccer season will be telling as the first three games will be against teams that the



Members of UM's women's soccer team fighting for the ball against Spring Hill. Photo by Kat Bell.

finished ahead of them during the regular season.

The team will start its season on Sept. 5 against Trevecca Nazarene in Falcon's Stadium. Quickly following this up with what is sure to be a hard-fought game against Louisiana Tech University a Division I school.

After these two home games the Falcons will go on the road again for in conference play against fifth ranked Valdosta State on Sept. 27, sixth ranked West Georgia on Sept. 29, top ranked West Florida on Oct. 4, and 14th ranked Spring Hill Oct. 6.

Wyman hopes to take this schedule one game at a time noting that each day brings a new challenge and that the team's overall focus is to improve.

"Trying to get better every day. Trying to work. No matter what we're doing, whether it's painting fields or pressing shirts or planning out preseason or training," said Wyman about the philosophy of the team.

Last year the team made a deep run into postseason play, competing in the conference finals. This year Wyman wants to take the season one game at a time, though still keeps winning

CALENDER OF EVENTS

AUGUST 2019

MON 26| First Day of School

SEPTEMBER 2019

MON 2		Labor Day	
THU 5	6 PM	Trevecca Nazarene (Women's Soccer) 6 PM	Montevallo, AL
FRI 6	9 AM	Harding (Volleyball) 9 AM	Huntsville, AL
FRI 6	1 PM	Trevecca Nazarene (Volleyball) 1 PM	Huntsville, AL
FRI 6	7PM	Florida Southern (Men's Soccer) 7 PM	Montevallo, AL
SAT 7	8 AM	Falcon Classic (Women's Cross Country) 8 AM	Montevallo, AL
SAT 7	8 AM	Falcon Classic (Men's Cross Country) 8 AM	Montevallo, AL
SAT 7	11 AM	Lees-McRae (Volleyball) 11 AM	Huntsville, AL
SAT 7	5 PM	West Georgia (Volleyball) 5 PM	Huntsville, AL
SUN 8	1 PM	Louisiana Tech (Women's Soccer) 1 PM	Montevallo, AL
MON 9	8 AM	Full Moon Invitational (Women's Golf) 8 AM	Calera, AL
MON 9	8 AM	Full Moon Invitational (Men's Golf) 8 AM	Calera, AL
MON 9	7 PM	Palm Beach Atlantic (Men's Soccer) 7 PM	Montevallo, AL
TUE 10	8 AM	Full Moon Invitational (Women's Golf) 8 AM	Calera, AL
TUE 10	8 AM	Full Moon Invitational (Men's Golf) 8 AM	Calera, AL
TUE 10	6 PM	Tuskegee (Volleyball) 6 PM	Montevallo, AL
FRI 13	3:30 PM	Saint Leo (Women's Soccer 3:30 PM	Columbus , GA
FRI 13	2 PM	Ohio Dominican (Volleyball) 2 PM	St. Charles, MO
FRI 13	6 PM	William Jewell (Volleyball) 6 PM	St. Charles, MO
FRI 13	6:30 PM	UT-Chattanooga Twilight (Women's XC) 6:30 PM	Chattanooga. TN
FRI 13	6:30 PM	UT-Chattanooga Twilight (Men's XC) 6:30 PM	Chattanooga. TN
SAT 14	TBA	Christian Brothers (Men's Soccer) TBA	Montevallo, AL
SAT 14	10 AM	Cedarville (Volleyball) 10 AM	St. Charles, MO
SAT 14	2 AM	Lindenwood (Volleyball) 2 AM	St. Charles, MO
SUN 15	11:30 AM	Tampa (Women's Soccer) 11:30 AM	Columbus , GA

Hulquist returns to position as chair of BSS

By WAID JONES, Editor-in-chief



Dr. Clark Hultquist, chair of BSS, photo courtesy of Marketing & Communications

A lot has changed since 2012, the last time that Professor Clark Hultquist was chair of the UM Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences. Even the day that I spoke to him he had administrative training scheduled for later on some policy the University of Montevallo had implemented in the 7 intervening years since.

His office, however, retains much of the charm of a college professor's office, shelves overfilled with books and sagging. A computer shoved into the corner where he sat answering emails, an aspect of being a professor many often forget, and as an administrator has become more closely tied to Hultquist's day to day job.

Since 2012, BSS has grown to 20 faculty members and an administrative assistant, added the Environmental Studies Program and numerous new faculty members. A change that Hultquist is excited about.

The position of chair is a unique one at Montevallo and other small universities where it isn't feasible to have heads of each program, a change that started in the mid-1960s and gradually became more popular during the 1970s as universities began combining positions for cost savings and administrative feasibility.

At UM the department chair works as a facilitator for learning and growth of both students and faculty members. The chair serves as a public face for the department often being required to attend admissions and fundraising events several times throughout a year.

They also serve as the point person for their department, almost serving as a departmental liaison who sorts requests through to different areas of study.

"And so, what the chair has to do is sort of be the umbrella over all of those disciplines and in some sense have a modest amount of knowledge about them."

The Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences averages between three and four professors per major which means that as chair Hultquist works collaboratively with each program to further their interests and goals for expansion, while at the same time having to make hard choices to prioritize overall growth.

Hultquist noted that the lens changes as you move from a teaching to an administrative role at the University.

"As a regular history professor my lens was really history," he said. "You're not thinking about yourself; you're thinking about the department as a whole.

His focus as chair is to continue the work of Dr. Ruth Truss, who vacated the role to become the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

"Dr. Truss was the best dean we've ever had," said Hultquist. "at least for now I'm just trying to continue down the path that she laid for us."

Hultquist finds that he lives in short term plans, and tries to maximize how well he does in his current role instead of thinking too far in the future.



10 things to watch while you study

By WAID JONES, Editor-in-chief



Sometimes movies and TV shows lend themselves to being on in the background when you're trying to do other things. These movies always have something to punch through to remind you they're on. Whether it's a comedy scene or a particularly good action sequence they can always pull you back in for a moment before you go back to doing, or not doing, your homework. So, because of that I've compiled a list of the best things to watch, or not watch this fall.

The Office

The Office remains infinitely bingeble, but it also has a certain quality that lends itself to not paying attention to it. The occasional prank, or cringy action by any member of the cast but especially Steve Carrell's Michael Scott, or the bitter rivalry between Dwight Schrute and Jim Halpert are enough to drag you back in for a minute leaving you satisfied as you tune out the rest of the show.

Parks and Recreation

Leslie Knope is a national treasure as a character, due in large part to Amy Poehler's amazing performance, but also because of the cast that surrounds her. The iconic moments of Ron Swanson and Knope are enough for a highlight real with some great story in between, whether this is your first time watching the show or you hundredth those moments will keep you going through a particularly boring assignment.

Scott Pilgrim vs. The World

With punchy action sequences interspersed between excellent cinematography this teenage drama will pull you through the whole way. The action sequences will draw you in and change the way you look at both film and comic books. While the film's excellent use of dialogue helps you follow along even if you're passively watching the film.

Nick and Nora's Infinite Playlist

I may just have an affinity for this movie and it's crazy cast featuring, Kat Denning, Michael Cera, Jay Barachel and Aaron Yoo, but I truly think that this is a movie worth having on in the background. The soundtrack is amazing, the ridiculous story and two people simultaneously trying to get back at exes and enemies has me both enthralled and satisfied when I look back at my favorite moments from this film.

Scooby Doo

This live action take on the classic cartoon is a ridiculous ride through the Sooby Doo universe. Featuring all of your favorite characters this movie has its terrible moments, but the action and just ridiculous plot almost get better when after you zone out for a minute and are met with the crazy antics of the Mystery Inc. Gang.

John Wick

This movie is an excellent example of an amazing action movie where I could care less about the plot of the film. To me it almost gets better not knowing why Keanu Reaves is running rampant through the territory of a Russian gang. This film's action though is where it shines, and the lull only gives it more gravity and weight when bullets start flying after a moment of silence.

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban

While almost all of these films lend themselves to having on in the background to me the third film in particular stands out. Directed by Alfonso Cuarón this entry into the series feature amazing sweeping visuals and introduces us to fan favorite characters Lupin and Sirius Black. The film's darker atmosphere than the first two entries into the series and Cuarón's excellent direction spark a special kind of atmosphere that in particular pull you in for some of the best action sequences in the Harry Potter series.

Baby Driver

This film's sound was nominated for two Oscars. Enough said. "Baby Driver" employs sound like no other movie in 2017 allowing you to zone out and almost not pay attention to the Ansel Elgort's stunning performance and the breathtaking action sequences that are present in this film. It takes you on a journey, a simple love story, punctuated by the music constantly playing in Baby's, Elgort's character, ears.

Captain America and the Winter Soldier

While most of Marvel movies are great to have on in the background many of the number two movies lend themselves best. Some say their bad, including me, but the action is enough to satisfy a super hero itch without demanding your full attention. I can't help but look up at Hulk smashing something or a particularly well-choreographed actions sequence.

It's all Greek to me: What that all about?

By ARIEL HALL

A new school year has approached and so has the opportunity for college students to become a part of a fraternity or sorority. There are no doubts about why Greek life is appealing. Whether someone is contemplating recruitment, or is just curious about what's behind the curtain, there are positive and negative attributes in going Greek and there are a few things to know.

Pro: Social networking/community

Becoming a Greek comes with a ready-made social network. Not only does being a part of Greek life allow the opportunity for brother or sisterhood, it also includes a support group and study partners. The feeling of belonging can also influence physical and mental health.

"Making friends can be hard and I'm not embarrassed to have needed a bit of a leg up. Having a community makes life so much better," said Hannah Irvin, junior Chi Omega member.

Con: Social limitations

However, on the flip side to having an expansive social network, Greek organizations are exclusive by nature. Once in a sorority or fraternity, students may limit their connections to solely their brothers or sisters, especially when Greeks occupy a large portion of the student population.

"You get drawn into a bubble in which you don't interact with many people outside Greek life," said Solomon Balaam-Reed, junior Phi Gamma Delta member.

Much of the time spent together is due to all the work that has to be done and events they attend. Though some Greeks do choose to interact with their brothers or sisters, many are still sociable outside of their organization as well.

Pro: Focus on philanthropy

One of the better kept secrets of Greek life is how much good they do. Service is a pillar of the Greek system and members contribute many hours of work to raise funds for humanitarian efforts.

"I think Montevallo has Greek unity figured out. We all care about our philanthropies and want each other to succeed in supporting them," said Irvin. "I love how everyone pitches in to help out. You really get to see the selfless side of everyone when it's philanthropy time."

Con: Costs

While Greeks' service may go under the radar, it's no secret that going Greek is expensive. Cost may vary from organization to the next, but the sum usually includes local and national dues and even insurance. Calculating the cost of membership and looking at the cost breakdown is just as important when considering other factors.

With the cost of money, Greeks also spend a lot of time with their given organization. "It takes up a good chunk of my time," said Caitlin Blackburn, sophomore Alpha Delta Pi member. "Going to philanthropies, chapter meetings, etcetera, is a lot."

Weekly meetings and various events on top of school and work could be difficult for some, though it can help improve time management skills.

Pro: Opportunity

With fraternal communities having a well-defined structure, it can offer opportunities for students to develop administrative and leadership skills. Councils that govern the Greek organizations typically consist of a president and treasurer, while leadership may consist of event planning or outreach. Though not everybody gets the opportunity to lead in those types of capacities, members are taught loyalty and cooperation within the organization and with others.

The connection between Greeks isn't lost after four years however. It can be beneficial when searching for employment or recommendations. Finding a job after graduating can be challenging and this type of network is essential for starting a career. So, while some may take time after college to make connections, Greeks are one step ahead.

Con: Potential for Substance Abuse and Hazing

Greek life's negative image on a national level in the media exists for a reason. Far too often, at other universities Greek life fosters a culture of alcohol and drug abuse.

Students may also have concerns about hazing if they joined Greek life. While hazing is forbidden, hazing may not even appear to be hazing. Simply put, hazing is someone submitting to physical, emotional, and/or psychological manipulation in the name of any organization.

However, it is important to understand the culture of the organization and campus itself. The state and UM have in place strict anti-hazing policies outlining possible consequences, including criminal liability, even if an organization itself does not.

"Greek Life at the University of Montevallo is very different from the stereotypes that students see in the media. Our Greek experience is for everyone, and it is family oriented. We have policies in place to make sure students have a good, safe experience, and any reported violations of those policies are investigated by our Student Conduct Office," said Jenny Bell, the director of student life, the department that oversees Greek life, at UM.

Conclusion

With eight sororities and six fraternities, the University of Montevallo has a total of 14 Greek organizations. Becoming part of a fraternity or sorority can make college an unforgettable experience. However, it isn't for everybody. Whether or not people join Greek life, they will learn about themselves and that's why, in the end, we go to college.



The University of Montevallo's Greek organizations pose for a group photo in front of main hall. Photo courtesy of University Marketing & Communications

Submit your news tips to alabamian@montevallo.edu

Spotify® PLAYLIST

By The ALABAMIAN STAFF

A NEW START

"The Great Escape" - Boys like Girls

All of our 2007 pop punk sides are screaming right now. "We are finally free tonight." We're back on campus with all the people we've missed this summer. We're making the great escape from mom and dad again ... until at least thanksgiving.

"Good Morning" -Max Frost

Make this song your alarm on the first day of class. I can't be mad if this is how my morning starts. "Everyday is a brand new day."

"Red High Heels" -Kelli Pickler

Wear that dress, that shirt, those jeans, or those red high heels that make you feel your most confident. It doesn't matter who knows what your plans are, as long as you're confident in what you're doing.

"Hunnybee" -Unknown Mortal Orchestra

Have you ever had a beat drop hit you so hard it took your breath away? This is about to be my newest study song. The mellow beat is just enough to get my head bobbing and put a smile on my face, but not so much that the chorus pulls me out of that really interesting economics textbook.

"River Water" -Moon Taxi

You know in movies where they pan across the college campus and show all the students studying out on the quad? That's this song. Grab a blanket and your class notes and soak up the last bit of summer to this song while actuallybeing productive.

"Truth Hurts" -Lizzo

Hey Freshman, or anyone for that matter, if you have someone holding you back who's supposed to be holding you down ... Listen to Lizzo. Be like Lizzo. It's probably a good idea since this song came out in 2017, but didn't hit number 4 on the Billboard Top 100 chart until this summer and has spent 15 weeks on the chart.

"Ready" -Alessia Cara

Reminder: It's ok to say you won't wait around for someone if they aren't ready for you, but you'll still be around. Stepoff the bridges. Don't burn them.

"Rivers and Roads" -the Head and the Heart

The first line of the song "a year from now we'll all be gone," holds special meaning for seniors. This is your year. In two semesters you hit the real world. "They" promise hardships with rewards, but until then revel in your friendships, stop panicking and enjoy your final year.

Horoscopes

By PEYTON LANG

Aries ♈ Time for a little more fun before it's time to buckle down and take care of business! You're in a productive mood. Whether it's making art, traveling, or practicing your craft, now is the perfect time to take advantage of that adventurous urge. Get ready to take action for the things that you want!

Taurus ♉ This is a very cleansing time for you, Taurus! Use this time to reconnect and recharge as you will find closure for things of the past very soon. Forget the things that bore you or no longer serve you. Let the spark in you reignite. Change can be good!

Cancer ♋ Money and finances may be your biggest focus right now! Trying to decide whether or not to splurge isn't always fun, but no worries! The sun is in Leo and it's bringing blessings your way! Don't worry too much right now about impressing others or trying to fit in. Rebel a little bit, Cancer! It could be fun.

Scorpio ♏ There's always that little stereotype that you're self-destructive, but you're also the sign of transformation! The energy from this Leo season is very encouraging of your growth. You may experience some changes this month, good and bad. Take time to reflect on your finances and close relationships. Remember that you belong with those who allow you to be open-minded!

Gemini ♊ If you've been feeling out of the loop, I'm here to let you know that it's all over! You're connected again and can have a little bit of fun. You might not always be sure of yourself, but now is the time for new discoveries and unexpected opportunities. Be open to what may come your way!

Leo ♌ Happy birthday! The sun is in your sign right now and you may be ready for some personal change. Expect an exciting announcement whether it be in your career path or even life plans! Conforming is not your style, Leo. There's power in freedom! Reflect and re-align.

Virgo ♍ Free your mind! There's no better time than now to ditch an old or nasty habit. You might finally get the clarity that you deserve. Don't ask for permission when it comes to your personal and mental health. Assess your needs and try to focus on some much needed self-care!

Libra ♎ This time of year turns you into a social butterfly! You've been meeting new friends who may be different than your usual crowd. But, don't view this as a negative! Use this time to get out of relationships that do not allow you to be you, Libra. You don't need to be held down! This week, take some time to wind down and get a grasp on any issues that may be weighing you down!

Sagittarius ♐ The ball is in your court, Sag! This month has been a ride, but that isn't always a bad thing. This is an exciting time for travel and adventure for you. You feeling feisty? Tell someone how you've been feeling! Exciting opportunities are arising soon. Be ready to take them on and show the world what you're really capable of!

Capricorn ♑ Things have been intense for us lately, Capricorns. We care a lot about passion and loyalty which can leave us feeling a little tense around this time of year. Right now, it's a great idea to let go of any relationships or duties that don't feel right in your heart anymore. Your inner voice and subconscious might be trying to share something with you. Meditate, listen, and be open to change.

Aquarius ♒ Allow yourself to do something that makes you happy! You may come in contact with someone who shares your heart. This will boost your spirit to help you get through the rest of the month. Your relationships, both romantic and mutual, may go through transformation, but this is dire in order to achieve the freedom that you've been craving! Good things are coming your way.

Pisces ♓ Treat yo' self, Pisces. You've been meeting deadlines and working hard on the projects that you care so deeply about! If you've been lacking inspiration, you won't for too much longer. Get ready for breakthroughs in communication and clarity in your personal relationships. The air is being cleared and new perspectives are arising for you. It's freeing really!



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Photopage



Alessia Cara singing during the Just Show up Show held in Orr Park on Aug. 1



Stephen Puth taking a selfie with fans



Attendees of the Just Show Up Show waiting for the performaces to start



AJ Mitchell performing at the Just Show Up Show



Alessia Cara performing at the Just Show Up Show



Stephen Puth playing guitar and singing in Orr Park



Lead singer of Echosmitsh, Sydney Sierota, performing with her brother Noah Sierota

Taylor Swift album review

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The history of Batman

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The Alabamian

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Monday, September 16, 2019

Montevallo holds second Tinglewood Festival

By ARIEL HALL

Even a hot summer day didn't stop a crowd from turning out for the City of Montevallo's second annual Tinglewood Festival.

Aside from the beautiful setting next to Shoal Creek, Orr Park is unique for carvings done by Tim Tingle, whom the festival was named for.

After a storm damage some tree is the park, Tingle was told to go to city hall to gain permission to carve them. Instead, Tingle carved faces and figures into the cedars along the creek, which was affectionately named 'Tinglewood."

While he took a risk, it has paid off for both Tingle and the city, it has led to additional carvings in the park.

With over 40 carvings on the Tinglewood path, it provides a perfect venue for celebrating wood carving and woodworking crafts. The event was organized by the Montevallo Chamber of Commerce and Montevallo Main Street along with Montevallo Arts Council. It was held on Saturday, Sept. 7.

The carvings were not the only thing that attracted curious attendees. Tinglewood Festival also had an abundance of art vendors selling their own wood-based goods. Wesley Urquhart of Cedar Creek Millworks displayed handcrafted outdoor furniture, for example. Other goods varied from bowls and vases to music boxes and decorative ornaments.

Some vendors were new to the festival this year, such an artist from Borderland Creations who goes by the name Skriv. She was scouted to participate in the festival this year but has been doing woodwork for over two years.

"Woodwork is a different kind of craft. I grew up building houses with my dad. I just found a different outlet," said the Birmingham based artist in reference to her more decorative products.

Throughout the day, there was also a live chainsaw demonstration featuring several artists from all over the eastern seaboard. The carvings were auctioned off that afternoon to various festival goers.

While some attendees were drawn to Tinglewood festival for the auction, the festival also had a children's area, complete with games and crafts and balloons. Such events at the festival even included a whittling contest with Tingle and wooden boat race.

"It's so nice to see children run around and use their imagination," said Frederick Maybee, a vendor who sold wood trains and other toys.



Wood Carvings, that mimick Orr Park tree carvings, being sold at the Tinglewood Arts Festival. Photo by: Ariel Hall

In addition to the activities in the children's section, Tinglewood also hosted Montevallo's Cars by the Creek, which displayed vintage vehicles of years past.

After the artists packed up their booths and the crowd from the day dwindled, some people stayed and gathered around the stage, sitting on blankets and chairs or standing in front of the guest music artists.

First up was the brother pairing Phil and Walon accompanied by vocalist Sarah Looney. The trio contributed unmistakable chemistry with their classical vocal harmonies in their covers. Next came The Vegabonds with impactful songs and powerful guitar riffs. Finally, the unsuspecting audience was served a dose of variety, from traditional country to soulful ballads, and the Zac Brown tribute band known as 20 RIDE took the stage by storm.

"Tinglewood brings a kind of identity to Montevallo because woodwork is a specific kind of craft," said Dr. Emma Atwood, associate professor of UM's English department. "The festival has already brought us growth in the city and I'm interested to see how the it grows."

Senator discusses teacher shortage at roundtable

By CALEB JONES, News Editor



Mark Dixon, Avis Williams, J.W. Carpenter, Sen. Doug Jones and Dr. Courtney Bentley discussing teacher retnetion at roundtable. Photo by Caleb Jones

On Saturday, Aug. 24, Senator Doug Jones, D-Ala, hosted a roundtable discussion in Anna Irvin featuring educators from across the state.

The discussion focused on the challenges involved in increasing Alabama's teacher workforce and how to work on strategies to effectively combat those challenges, as well as how to improve the educational experience for K-12 and college students.

After opening remarks from UM President John Stewart, Jones began by stressing the importance of teachers' place in shaping the futures of young people, calling them the "backbones of our society."

"We have to find good people, we have to find qualified people, we have to give these teachers the skills that are necessary to get there and get in with those kids, and we have to have the necessary tools to keep them in the profession," said Jones.

One of the main challenges addressed by the panel was how schools often have trouble retaining teachers. In fact, there is a teacher shortage in Alabama and across the country

The panelists discussed the factors that lead to this, such as teachers having no financial incentive to stay, as many find that a teacher's salary often isn't enough to live on.

They also addressed the issue of the lack of certified teachers, and that because of this, some teachers have been on emergency certification for as much as four years. According to Jones there are currently about 1700 uncertified teachers.

UM breaks ground on college of business addition

By REANNA PIPES

On Thursday, September 5 at 3:30 p.m. The University of Montevallo held the ceremonial groundbreaking for the new Michael E. Steven's College of Business building on Thursday, September 5 at 3:30 p.m.

A crowd gathered just outside Morgan Hall as Dr. John Stewart, President of the University, welcomed them to the event. Senator Cam Ward, D-Ala, and Montegomery mayor Todd Strange made opening remarks. The Dean of the College of Business, Dr. Stephen Craft expressed his excitement about the potential that will come with the building before beginning the groundbreaking.

"Thanks to the largesse of Allison Stephens and Michael E. Stephens, we've designed a building that is going to honor Michael's memory and honor the vision that Allison has for Montevallo. In my 10 years of knowing Michael, this was his dream. He always wanted a new building for the College of Business, and so I'm so grateful that this day has come," said UM President Dr. John W. Stewart III from a UM press release.

This new expansion to campus is made possible by a donation of $3.6 million left by the late Michael E. Stephens, who the Stephens College of Business is also named after. This is the largest gift received in the University of Montevallo's history. While there is no set completion date, the construction for the building is expected to take a year.

"It will serve students well into the next generation. Breaking ground today is emblematic of the trajectory our University is enjoying," said Dr. Stewart from UM press release

The building will be connected to Morgan Hall and will help improve the learning experience not only for business majors but for all students as well. Everyone can expect to benefit and utilize the spaces that will be provided in the building. Not only will there be new technologically improved classrooms, but plenty of meeting rooms and public spaces for all kinds of campus events to be held in.

This expansion is one of several recent developments on campus, including the new Center for the Arts building which is set to finish construction soon. The University is steadily growing and will continue to do so.

"Two projects that could happen relatively soon would be a major renovation of Harmon Hall and then a nice housing option for students," Dr. Stewart said when asked about future growth. While future decisions are not set in stone, the University definitely plans to continue to grow and make progress in all departments.

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Viewpoints

Letter from the editor

By WAID JONES, Editor in cheif



Waid Jones, Editor of the Alabamian

"The first issue is always terrible."

I think that particular idiom is not necessarily true, and while I wouldn't say that The Alabamian's first issue had some problems. Once I sat down after rushing through the production, I noticed a number of, what were to me, glaring flaws. Most of them unfortunately were with my own writing, some copy editing and some design.

I think though, that admitting when something doesn't go quite how you planned it, it can be not only an important learning tool but in a way liberating. I sat down with a PDF copy of a newspaper that was yet to be printed and looked at its flaws, but I also was able to look at its strengths. The first issue represents what I hope to be an opening salvo of inclusion and representation of the entire University community within the pages of The Alabamian.

It does, however, also represent that every path is a journey. Rarely do you step into a new role, shoot for the moon and hit it. This is something that I expected of myself and it was totally unrealistic. It's as if I had decided, on my first day of walking that I was going to beat Usain Bolt in a race. It wasn't going to happen, but as "student" journalists it is important that we are able to learn and grow from our mistakes.

Unfortunately, some of those mistakes are much more public and lack a veil of academic kindness often afforded aspiring students in the classroom. My mistakes are now permanently enshrined in the campus's history, but this enshrinement is also important as it gives these mistakes a certain weight and provides me with the drive to serve the campus community better.

But I feel that accepting that you've made a mistake isn't enough. You have to look at the underlying reason for the mistake. With the first issue we did that. We performed a detailed post-mortem and looked at what went wrong and what went right. Overall, when we looked at it as a group, I realized that I had been overcritical initially. So, by waiting to point the blame at someone ultimately, I understood more about what was going on than I would have if I hadn't

So, with all the good, and the bad that came with the first issue, I present to you the second issue of The Alabamian. It too is imperfect, as nothing can ever quite reach such a lofty pedestal, but it represents a second shot, a new beginning and an amazing opportunity to continue to prove to the students, faculty and staff that The Alabamian, and print news in general, serves a vital purpose to the health of a community.

Letter from the president

By OLIVIA ELDRIDGE



Olivia Eldridge, SGA President.

Hi everyone!

I hope you've all had a great start back to the semester! Classes are back in full swing and it has been great to see campus so busy.

SGA elections are Sept. 23 – 25. We will be electing new Freshman and Transfer senators, so be on the lookout for their campaigns and be sure to ask them about their goals for campus. Mr. and Miss Montevallo elections are also September 23 – 25. Elections for both will be on Falconlink.

We have additional Senate seats open for upperclassmen, so if you are interested in joining, please contact me!

SGA has WOW weekends planned for Sept. 20 and 21. We will have a Dive-In movie on Sept. 20. There will be free Chick-Fil-A for the first 100 people, and we will be watching Captain Marvel in the SAC pool. On Sept. 21, we will have waterslides and snow cones at Brooke Quad. Check out our Instagram and Facebook pages for more information!

As the semester progresses, please remember to keep us in the loop with any questions and concerns that you have. We do our best job when we have input from you. My door is always open, and I am always happy to discuss any concerns you might have.

Remember to study hard and have fun along the way. It's been a great semester so far and I can't wait to see what we accomplish during the remaining months!

The Monster that is The Mouse

By HARRISON NEVILLE

A shadow fell across the land and all people trembled in fear for it was the shadow of their dread lord; it was the shadow of The Mouse…

Now, plenty of people crack jokes about Disney taking over the world, but what if they did? Is it really so bizarre to imagine a corporation gaining worldwide influence? Since its founding Disney has only grown larger and more influential.

In 1955 Disneyland opened, then in 1983 Disney Channel was launched, in 1996 Disney acquired ABC, which also came with ESPN as a subsidiary, in 2006 the company bought Pixar, in 2009 they acquired Marvel, in 2012 it was Lucasfilm's turn and most recently they bought 21st Century Fox on March 20 of 2019.

Attaining control of Fox also gave Disney majority ownership over the popular streaming service, Hulu, and they have already worked out a deal to buy out Comcast third of Hulu so that they will have complete control.

Thanks to the deal that gave them ABC they have 50% ownership over the network that produces The History Channel.

Put simply, Disney is a behemoth in the entertainment business that produces movies, television, toys, games and runs theme parks.

They are considered a model example of customer service and my last job even used them as an example of excellent customer service and attention to detail as a part of their staff training.

Disney is the producer of the old movies that you adore, the shows you fell in love with as a kid, and the superheroes that inspired you. They are the owners of some of the most beloved simple stories of a hero riding and saving the day from a terrible villain, and they have done everything they can to make you see them as just as heroic and magical as their stories.

But what if Disney is not the hero, but the villain?

Recently, Sony stood up to the corporate giant that is Disney and refused to accept a deal that they did not feel would be fair for them, and if the reports are accurate, would have Disney raking in 50% of the profit from the next in addition to already getting the revenue from the toy sales. Sony's refusal resulted in Disney and Sony bringing their deal to an end and potentially removing Spider-Man from the MCU.

"It's a free country, but when it comes to entertainment Disney charges the price of admission."

The response on the part of most fans has been outrage with Sony, since very few people care about anything other than having Spider-Man stay in the MCU.

Let's face it people, when The Mouse says "jump," we ask, "how high" and open up our wallets.

It's time that we all wise-up to the fact that Disney is calling the shots a little too much.

In the summer of 2018, I was working out in New Mexico, and some friends and I decided to drive in to Taos to watch a movie. The theater we went to was fairly small with only a smattering of titles showing, but a few of us decided that we wanted to watch "Solo: A Star Wars Story." Naturally there was a storm and the power went out halfway through the movie.

The manager apologized effusively and gave us all free movie passes so we could come back later. Unfortunately, one of Disney's stipulations to theaters is that they are not allowed to let people use free movie passes for Disney movies.

Naturally the other two movies everyone was talking about that summer were "Incredibles 2" and "Ant Man and the Wasp." I saw both of those movies that summer, but I never did manage to cash in that free movie pass.

Here is the point that I'm trying to make: Disney may not be an actual monopoly, but they are trying their hardest to get as close as they legally can. Think about the markets that Disney has influence over.

They have sway over cable networks and could in theory affect your news, they influence your kids as they grow and tell them what they should believe and aspire to, they control the channel that you watch your sports on, the Star Wars franchise and the superhero films that have practically a cult following.

This is why I support Sony in this whole Sony vs Disney affair, because it's about time that someone actually told The Mouse no. If no one ever takes a stand against Disney, then I genuinely worry over what could happen.

As I said, Disney doesn't have a Monopoly over any industry, but they clearly are working to have a monopoly over the best content producers in each industry, with their purchase of Pixar, Lucasfilm and Marvel, I'd say they're doing a good job of that. Not to mention their control of both Hulu and their own streaming service means that they are taking a pretty large slice out of the streaming service pie.

I know I sound like a conspiracy nut, but is it really that hard to believe that one corporation having so much power and influence could be a problem?

It's a free country, but when it comes to entertainment Disney charges the price of admission.

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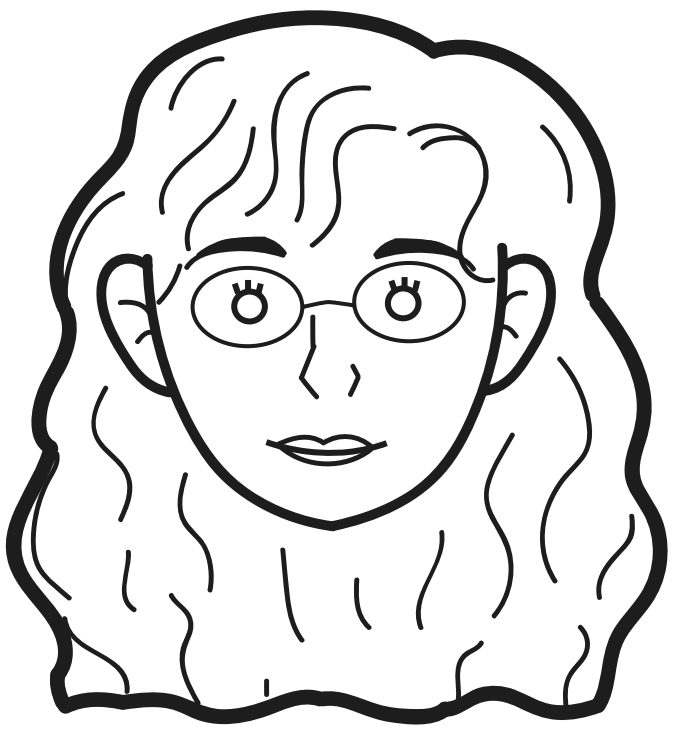
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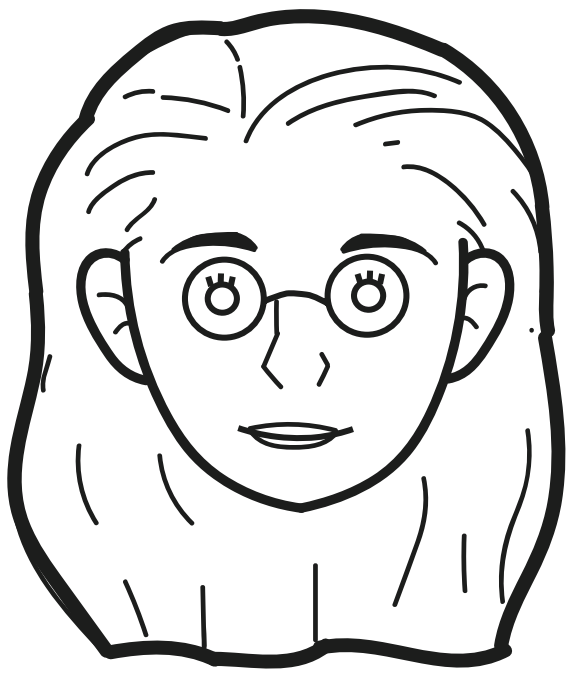
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Editor-in-chief

Manages the newsroom and has final say over the direction of the newspaper.



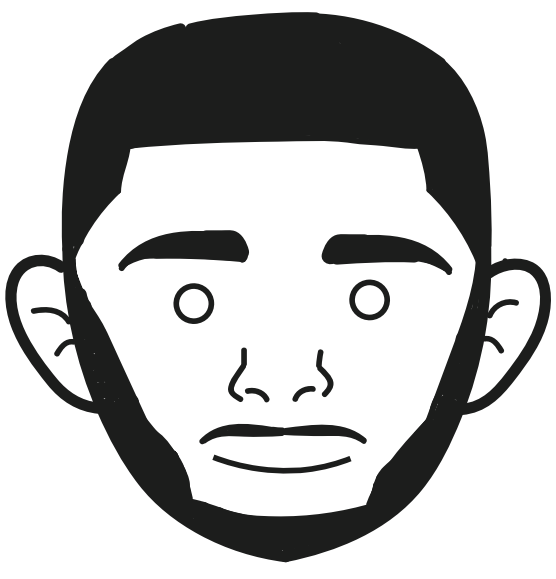
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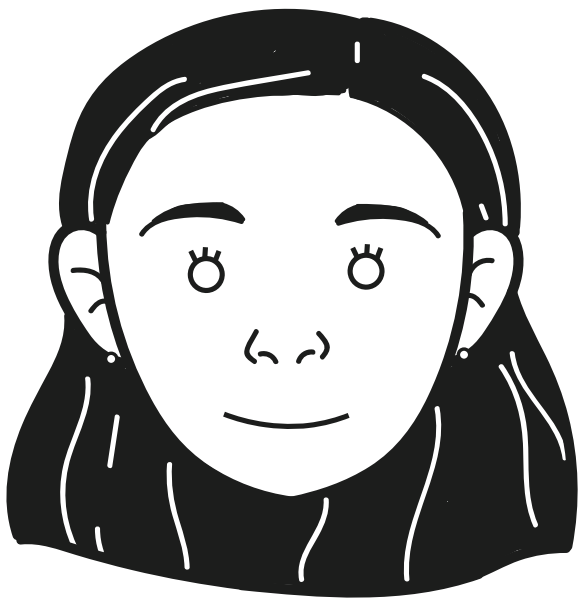
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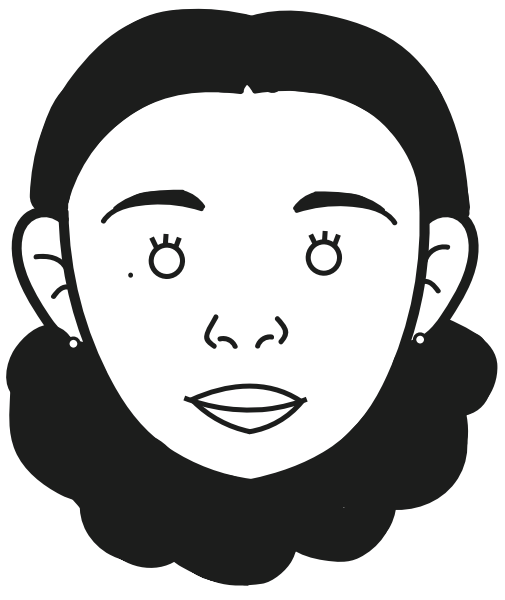
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ARIEL HALL,
Lifestyles editor

Writes, edits copy and organizes writers and content to make sure all of the stories pertaining to her beat are covered.



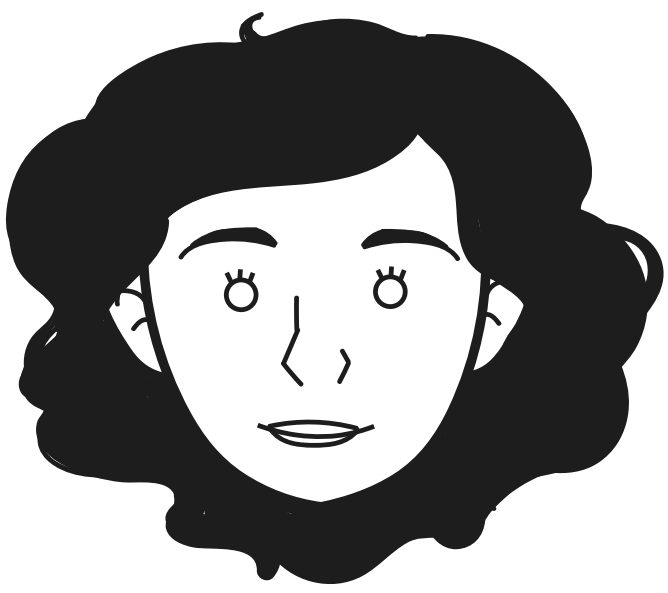
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Design Director

Lays out print and online content, creates graphics and is a vital part to the final step of putting the paper together. She creates graphics, illustrations and marketing material.



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Tyler is in charge of strategy, branding and marketing. He also works with our digital media specialist on content creation for all of our social medias.



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Morrow, Georgia

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4:30 PM **Volleyball (Southern Arkansas)**
Livingston, AL

SAT 21

11:30 AM **Volleyball (Agusta)**
Livingston, AL

11:00 AM **Women's Soccer (Florida Tech)**
Montevallo, AL

1:00 PM **Men's Soccer (Francis Marion)**
Florence, AL

4:30 PM **Volleyball (West Alabama)**
Livingston, AL

MON 23

Men's Golf (Columbus State Invitational)
Columbus, GA

TUE 24

Men's Golf (Columbus State Invitational)
Columbus, GA

6:00 PM **Volleyball (Auburn Montgomery)**
Montgomery, AL

WED 25

3:00 PM **Men's Soccer (Saint Leo)**
Saint Leo, FL

FRI 27

6:00 PM **Volleyball (Union)**
Montevallo, AL

4:30 PM **Women's Soccer (Valdosta State)**
Valdosta, GA

SAT 28

2:00 PM **Volleyball (Christian Brothers)**
Montevallo, AL

4:00 PM **Men's Soccer (North Georgia)**
Valdosta, GA

SUN 29

12:00 PM **Women's Soccer (West Georgia)**
Carrollton, GA

Taylor Swift "Lover" Album Review

By WAID JONES, Editor-in-cheif

Taylor Swift's new album is dividing her fans once again. Including me as I continue to be deeply conflicted about this album. As I talked about the album with those around me, they have either encouraged my dislike or argued for the album's merits.

These mixed feelings are emblematic of the album itself. It's not bad, but at the same time it's not my favorite album. It sits in a weird place in Taylor Swift albums as well, falling somewhere in between the gold standard of pop Taylor in "1989" and "Reputation." I find it hard to say this is Swift's best work but I also cannot in good conscience tell you that the album isn't good.

This does fit though, as it doesn't seem like the pop mega-star will ever be able to release a song without being met with a torrent of complaints debating whether or not she's forsaken her original fans or if this is a reasonable progression of her music. The conflict is part of the music at this point, is it good because it's feels more like an evolution of "1989" or is it bad because it's not an evolution of "Reputation."

The album, "Lover," is the artist's longest studio release featuring 18 tracks of pop goodness and takes the listener on an interesting journey, but at times questionable journey. The album's thesis doesn't seem to be related to the artist's age, instead it feels like we've been taken merely to a happier point in the artists life, more reveling in her successes than commiserating with her failures.

The album as a whole presents a cohesive narrative, but this also feels like it's downfall somehow.

Instead of each track standing out on its own they all blend together in an effervescent lullaby that often feels like it's more akin to Swift's country music roots than her current pop image.

Often times while listening, I became lost in a dreamlike state, it wasn't unpleasant but it certainly lacked any kind of high or low that created a distinct reaction from me.

Other's however have told me I'm completely wrong, that the album has a few "certifiable bangers" and exists as a portrait of Swift's current relationship. They argue that the similarities to Swift's older music that felt off for me, were instead homages to the same showing how this album exists as an evolution of those times.

As I was sitting down to write this article, I put the album on repeat and tried to figure out what my favorite song was or to find any discernable differentiation between Swifts excellent vocal work on the Album.

Some songs like "Me!" which featured Brendon Urie of Panic! at the Disco stood out as a glimmer in the darkness but even then, I found myself lost in the similar tone of many of the tracks, though I could always pick out "Cornelia Street" a song which could have been moved to either end of the album from its place in the dead center as the only thing that seems to separate it from the track after it "Death By A Thousand Cuts" is its abrupt end and the silence as iTunes changed the track. The rhythm, theme and timbre of both songs felt too similar to me.

Much of the album possesses a childlike effervescence that's mixed with adult themes and utterly refreshing after the artist's last studio release. This is likely because the album exists as a point in Swift's life where she's happier, moving away from work she made as a younger artist that seemed to be mired with bad breakup after bad breakup. As she moves into a new stage of her life her music has done the same thing.

The reason why, after listening to this album on repeat for multiple days, that I remained conflicted is "Cruel Summer," as I absolutely love this song. The backing beat is fantastic and is superb to jam out to, it remains the hidden gem of the album.

Gone are the days of "Into the Woods" discussion of secret relationships and now we're in the age of Swift embracing not a secrecy but a calmer privacy with "Cruel Summer." This change has fueled the album's ability to change some listeners' opinion the artist in general as the artist's musical presentation comes more in line with a happy medium between tumultuous breakup songs and "be yourself, love who you love" anthems.

Beyond Batman

The history of a legend

BY KATY BARNES

For the past few years, Batman Day has been celebrated on Sept. 15. There's no reason that I can find as to why this random day was chosen, and it doesn't even have the unique pleasure of being the only Batman Day on the calendar.

There's one in March, May, June and one in July, all coinciding with different important Batman dates. Fans love having a reason to celebrate their favorite character and this year it seems there's an extra dose of excitement due to it being Batman's 80th anniversary.

Last March, DC released Detective Comics pages 1000 - 96 in celebration of the Dark Knight, telling stories spanning across his current timeline and showcasing everything that makes Bruce Wayne the Batman. How did he become The Dark Knight though? After all, 80 years, and numerous timelines, is plenty of time for any character to grow. So, let's go on a journey and see where Batman truly began.

The year is 1939 and Superman is a huge success. Action Comics #1 debuted in April 1938 and the public could not wait to see what else National Comics Publications (later DC) would deliver.

Enter Bill Finger and Bob Kane. They had written for the company previously, in their book "Adventure Comics" and as up-and-coming creators they were always looking for more work. In one weekend the duo had put together the character known as "The Bat-man."

The original look for the caped crusader was nothing like his final design - comprised of a red body suit, a domino mask and a black cape. The cape was the only piece that managed to stick around – the bodysuit was exchanged for a black and grey color scheme reminiscing of the inspiration for Batman, Zorro, and a bat like cowl replaced the domino and cemented the Bat aesthetic Finger and Kane were striving to achieve.

The first story Finger had written was a six- page story adapted from a novel featuring The Shadow, and Bob Kane's art was copied from Flash Gordon strips. Still, despite the shortcuts, the character of The Bat-man was an instant hit with people of all ages. Kids especially loved the stories, and were drawn to the more adult nature of the comic, and this gave Bill Finger and Bob Kane and idea, and that was creating a sidekick for the caped crusader.

The next vital part of the Batman Mythos is, ironically enough, the Batman Family. Within the next year, Bob Kane and Bill Finger would be inspired by the amount of kids reading their books and insert a character for them to project onto – the first Robin, known as Dick Grayson. Finger had decided that Bruce needed a "Watson-like" character to talk to, and creating a ward for Bruce Wayne seemed to fit the bill.

In a mirror to Bruce, he witnesses his parent's deaths and vows to seek revenge. He begs to be Batman's sidekick and Bruce agrees, adopting him as his ward and bringing him into the life of vigilantism. The addition and success of a child sidekick sparked an influx of child sidekicks within other comics running at the time, and it resulted in a boost in sales for the comic.

However, the addition of Dick Grayson led to the creation of another piece of iconic Batman mythos – if there were to be children fighting crime, Batman could no longer use a gun or actively kill bad guys.

Batman was officially where Bill Finger and Bob Kane wanted him to be -- by the mid-forties Batman was the headliner of three comics and many of his iconic villains had emerged, such as The Joker and Cat Woman. Alfred had been introduced in April 1943 in the Batman title and the Batman we know today had begun to take shape. Suddenly, however, things were not going as well as they had been.

The 1950s saw a downturn in sales and as a result DC was desperate to do anything do keep readers entertained. The comics became significantly goofier than they had been in previous years – the end of World War II had encouraged comics to become less menacing and more colorful, with the introduction of the Comic Code Authority, Detective Comics was doing what it could to stay relevant.

This is what is known as the Silver Age. Batman started to deal with elements of science fiction, dealing with characters such as Bat-Mite and solving issues like alien invasions.

The 1964 television show helped boost comic book sales for a while but after the show went off the air, comic book sales decreased again, it seemed as if Batman had finally come to an end, until Dennis O'Neil and Neal Adams came along.

They eliminated the campier aspects and brought Batman back to his roots as the world's greatest detective. Dick Grayson was given his own team, the Teen Titans, and he spent much of his time in that book rather than in Batman or Detective Comics.

Bruce spent more time alone, cultivating his darker aura that he became known for.

This Batman of the 70's and '80s was the inspiration for the 1989 Batman movie and the critically acclaimed "Batman: The Animated Series." Comics such as Frank Miller's "The Dark Knight Returns" or Alan Moore's "The Killing Joke" became known as some of the most definitive Batman stories of all time, focusing on the things Bruce can't do versus the things he can.

The biggest factor in the upsurge of Batman readers was "Death in the Family" and the following death of Jason Todd, the second Robin.

See Batman Page 6

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Batman:

Readers were tasked with the decision of letting Jason Todd live or die, and with a margin of 28 votes he was killed. This marked the extent of how far DC comics was willing to go to set these stories apart from the goofy days of the 60s. It set a precedent for how Batman stories would be written for years to come and the changes were even felt in universe. The third Robin, Tim Drake, joined Batman to prevent him from becoming like the criminals he fought against. However, Tim Drake's Robin was different – when he started he still had living parents. He'd also go on to have a solo series, the most defining for Robin, further separating him from his mentor.

Despite the 90's introducing the newest members of the Bat Family, they fought under his name and not with the bat himself. Batman was officially more alone than not.

The last major addition to the story of Batman was the addition of Damian Wayne in 2006. Dick Grayson was the one under the cowl and he made the decision to promote Damian to Robin, invoking a whole new dynamic for the duo. Whereas before Bruce was rough and cynical, Dick was lighter – an easier going Batman to Damian's harsher Robin.

Seventy-three years had gone by and Batman's image in the popular culture had been secured. Movies such as Tim Burton's Batman trilogy drew on the darker aspect of Batman's character, securing that interpretation in the public eye. "Batman: The Animated Series" showed a nuance to Bruce's character that also finds itself in many popular adaptations. While the Bronze Age served as the most defining period of Batman's life, giving us the Bruce Wayne we know now.

In 2012 DC cancelled all of their books and started over under the title of New52. Then in 2016 they restarted the timelines again with Rebirth. Both times involved rebooting the timeline, and this caused many changes throughout the DC universe. Still, even though they started over, there are just some things you can't take away.

Batman's skills, His morals, his ability to overcome – these are the things that exist at his core.

As one of the cornerstones of DC Comics, Batman's history is a long but fascinating one. Throughout the years Batman has become a cultural phenomenon – he's a multimedia personality. It's nearly impossible to find someone who hasn't at least heard of the hero and equally difficult to find someone who has never interacted with Batman media.

Eighty years seems like a long time for one character to continue on, but Batman's always changing, evolving to be what the people need him to be. Batman has been around for eighty years now and he'll definitely be around for a lot longer than that.



By PEYTON LANG

Aries ♈ You have big goals and ambitions, but remember that you won't achieve them over night! This week, instead of marching to the beat of your own drum, try following into line. If you can't beat them, join them! This doesn't mean failure on your behalf.

Taurus ♉ It seems everyone has an opinion these days. While it's important to share your thoughts and feelings with people, sometimes the confusing feedback isn't always worth it.

Gemini ♊ This week, you might be feeling pulled every which way. Work and love are in a cat fight over your attention. That can be overwhelming! Try to focus your energy where you feel is more important or time sensitive at the moment. Peace of mind will be coming soon, so no worries.

Cancer ♋ You have the best intentions and care so much for others, but remember this week not to exhaust yourself. If this is your sun or rising sign, your moods can often be overwhelming which can drain your energy sometimes. There may be a lot going on, but lean on the responsible people in your life to help you hold it down.

Leo ♌ Let that money motivate you. Splurge, but not to the point you go into debt! I mean, really who are we trying to impress here? Saying that though, you're doing great. The full moon coming this Friday, the 13th provides an opportunity for transformative release. A good time to get rid of the negativity and to nurture yourself for once, lil Leo cub!

Virgo ♍ Figure out the most productive use of your energy. Those projects you've been working on? We're getting them done, Virgo! Do what you love, what makes you feel good. The full moon coming up is in Pisces and it might be a good time to evaluate which relationships in your life are worth it! But, don't let any individual get to you.

Libra ♎ Everything you've been doing behind the scenes like dedicating yourself to your health and volunteering to help others comes to fruition during this full moon in Pisces. We can all see how caring you are, Libra! However, taking care of others can be exhausting.

Scorpio ♏ There's always that little stereotype that you're self-destructive, but you're also the sign of transformation! The energy from this Leo season is very encouraging of your growth. You may experience some changes this month, good and bad. Take time to reflect on your finances and close relationships.

Sagittarius ♐ You're looking good, Sag! This is the perfect time to display any special skills or talents that you've got to offer. Your focus has shifted to your career and big moves for the future. This ambition is great! Use the upcoming full moon to evaluate how you want to be seen. Be honest with yourself about how you would like to be remembered.

Aquarius ♒ It's time to be real with yourself about your budgeting! Listen to yourself when thinking about making big purchases. But more importantly, watch out for the wolf in sheep's clothing.

Pisces ♓ You and a partner might share mutual feelings, but chemistry isn't the only thing needed to thrive in a relationship! Remember to be you. Neptune is in your sign, so it's really easy to reflect what others want to see from you. Don't try to mold yourself to fit into their box. It's your time to shine, Pisces, so bring it all back to you.

Capricorn ♑ You're a natural boss. It's easy to get the help that you need to get things done. However, don't believe everything you read or hear. This week, things may not be as they appear—though they might seem very real! Your intuition may be off, so just hold on tight, Capricorn.

Spotify PLAYLIST

By The ALABAMIAN STAFF

HOMESICK

"Home" - by Phillip Phillips

Transferring from one home to another can be daunting, especially when you think about all you have to leave behind. Like the song says however, it's important to know you're not alone during this time. We all feel nostalgia for the homes we left, but creating a new home is part of the journey.

"Country Roads, Take me Home" -by John Denver

As much as you may enjoy college, sometimes it's important to go to your other home. Listen to this classic country song as you ride on down to where ever you're from and remember that while somethings may be crazy, other things will never change.

"Hey There, Delilah" -by The Plain White Tees

Sometimes a home isn't a place, it's a person. When someone you love lives far away it can feel like homesickness, and if you have a friend or loved one in a different place you may find yourself thinking that you wish you could be where they are.

"Somewhere Only We Know " -by Keane

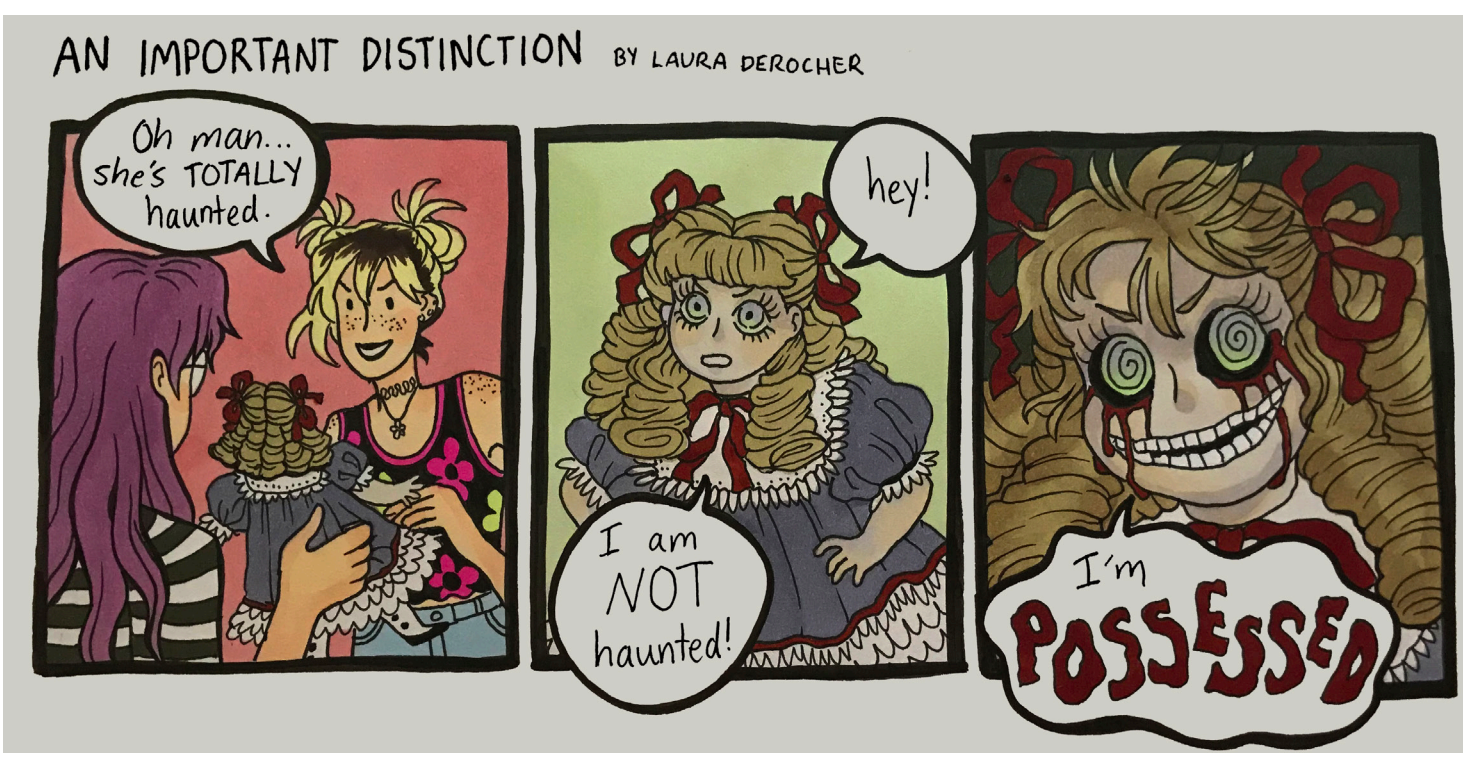
This song always makes me think of being younger, traipsing through the woods with my best friend. We use to do crazy stuff like walk across rusty metal pipes over 30 feet above the ground, just to explore what was on the other side of the clearing. We found bridges and adventure we thought had never been discovered by anyone else.

"Place We Were Made" -by Maisie Peters

This sweet but melancholy tune reminds of where we came from. When we come to college, we leave certain things and people behind us, but it also one of the greatest times in our lives. It's full of laughter and love, just like home, but in a different kind of way as comes with freedom and independence.

"California Dreamin" -by the Mamas and Papas

This 1966 song gives the vibes of reminiscence, searching for better times left far in the past. The way the chorus croons so smoothly and the way they sing about wishing for warmer days in the chill of winter makes me think about how much I miss my old home the way it was in the heat of summer. Everything seemed so much simpler,



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College night mixer photopage

Page 8



Freshman Senators

Page 7



The Alabamian

Vol. 94, No. 3

Monday, September 30, 2019

Donors offer LGBTQ+ Inclusiveness Scholarship

By JAMIE BROWDER

Starting in the spring semester of 2020, UM will begin offering a scholarship dedicated to LGBTQ+ and other people of minorities. It is called the University of Montevallo LGBTQ+ Inclusiveness and Social Activism Endowed Scholarship.

The recipient of the scholarship will receive $500 for two semesters.

"The scholarship was created to honor UM students, faculty and staff who in the course of their lives sought to ensure everyone they encountered felt included. The scholarship is amazing because it both recognizes the legacy of our students and staff, and also sets the path for future students to continue such work," said Grace Bagwell, president of Spectrum, the LGBTQ+ student organization of UM.

Bree Roberts, the academic coordinator for TRIO's Student support services, was tasked with finding the recipient of the scholarship.

"A donor decided that they really wanted to celebrate what Montevallo means, and for a lot of people in Montevallo, that means diversity and inclusion. We wanted to celebrate the students who are working towards that," said Roberts, the faculty staff advisor of Spectrum.

The donor of the scholarship has elected to stay anonymous; however, they expressed great excitement about handing the duties of the scholarship off to Roberts. It was a quick turn around because it will be offered in January, according to Roberts.

"When they came to me and said, 'hey this is what we want to do,' I was like if I had the ability to do cartwheels, I would have been doing cartwheels," said Roberts.

She shared that Montevallo is the perfect hub for a scholarship like this because it is such an inclusive and diverse place. She explained further that she believes UM is a "come as you are" place.

"We really do mean this when we say you can come to Montevallo, you can be who you are and explore who you are and you can grow to whoever you want to be," said Roberts. "This scholarship does that. It says we really do celebrate and believe in that."

Both Roberts and Bagwell believe this scholarship will help students across the board, whether they are LGBTQ+, minority students or women at UM.

"As for it's perception of the University as a whole, I think that this step just reflects the amazing atmosphere UM has cultivated for its students. Every step of my journey at UM has been guided with acceptance and support by the amazing resources on campus," said Bagwell.

To apply students need to email Bree Roberts in no more than 1,000 words explaining what students do to make others feel included. She put emphasis on the importance of long term goals. The statements are due Nov. 8.

According to a statement that was sent out about the scholarship, areas of interest may include work pertaining to: LGBTQ+ advocacy, racial/ethnic justice, human rights, social justice, equality, mental health and suicide prevention.

In reference to students who wonder if the scholarship applies to them, Roberts urges them to apply anyway.

"I think that the scholarship is a wonderful opportunity for students. So often people participate in service and activism with no expectation for recognition, but this scholarship aims to recognize these selfless students," Bagwell shared.

Global Climate Change Strike Draws Students

By ARIEL HALL, Lifestyles editor



Protesters at global climate strike. Photo by Ariel Hall

Inspired by the Swedish 16-year-old activist Greta Thunberg, young people and adults across the globe came together to protest the current climate crisis and world leaders' lack of action. There was participation in over 1,700 cities and 120 countries.

More than 300 people attended the rally in Linn Park on Friday. In addition to Birmingham's event, rallies all over that state in cities such as Mobile and Huntsville also were planned.

An eighth grader from Simmons Middle School in Hoover named Stella Tarrant was inspired to organize Birmingham's event once she realized the city was not a part of the global protest. The event came together due to her efforts with the support of local environmental groups and her minister, Reverend Julie Conrady of Unitarian Universalist Church of Birmingham.

"We're all on this planet together," said Tarrant. "No matter where you come from, the color of your skin, or the political party you belong to or who your friends are, everyone should care about the future of the 7 billion people on this planet and the billions of people to come after that."

Other students from the Birmingham area also led speeches and chants at the event. Margo Araoz, a senior at Homewood High School, told of how she came to learn about climate change and why she is an advocate for change.

"I hope that our takeaway from today is that individually, we may feel alone in this environmental battle," said Araoz, "but all over the world people are doing exactly what we are doing: demanding change. United we can accomplish so much and so much we will do."

In addition to the youth speakers, Scot Duncan, biology professor at Birmingham-Southern College, spoke about the specific impacts climate change is projected to have on Alabama and how climate change affects the population disproportionately.

"The more I read, the more I worry, and not just for nature, but for us. Climate change has created dire problems for our economy, our health, and our air and water supply. Climate change has disproportionally affected the poor and people of color," said Duncan.

Towards the end of the event, founder of Black Warrior Riverkeeper David Whiteside directed the crowd's attention to Alabama Power's headquarters just a few blocks away, emphasizing the company's fees on solar power and it's Miller Steam Plant, one of the largest greenhouse gas emitting coal plants in the country.

"We need to make this issue local to fight it globally. We need to make Birmingham the poster child for the climate change movement," said Whiteside. "We need to put all the national cameras on Birmingham like it was in the Civil Rights Movement. We need to make Birmingham national."

After recognizing local environmental groups involved including the Climate Reality Project and Citizen's Climate Lobby, the strike concluded with some words from Conrady, who encouraged everyone to do their part. She also encouraged people to attend the interfaith service at her church on Friday, Sept. 27 which will conclude Climate Strike Week.

Kyle Crider, an adjunct instructor of environmental studies at UM spoke briefly on the strike.

"I often say to my class 'you young folk give me hope". Nowhere was that clearer than the Birmingham Climate Strike. The inspiration of Greta Thunberg was present as young person after young person took the mic," said Crider. "The climate crisis reflects the failure of the parents, not the children."

"My generation has failed Thunberg and the planet. We need to hear her words, but more importantly, we need to follow her lead and take act like adults," said Crider. "How far are we adults willing to go to reduce our environmental impact? How many of us have bothered to change our car, our eating habits, or even a light-bulb? Give our kids and the planet a break. That means do something, adults."

UPC escape room

By JOSIE SHAW

On Thursday, Sept. 12, 2019 the University Program Council organized the Campus Escape - "The Philosopher!" escape room attraction for students. The escape room was free to all students and offered a great opportunity to work with new people and learn about UPC.

The plot line of the escape room follows a group of students trying to delete an email from their philosophy professor's laptop. The laptop's password can be decrypted by understanding and piecing together parts of the professors past. These pieces are found through various puzzles and tasks such as searching through the teachers travel log, moving a key through an art piece, and organizing a date planner.

"It was a really engaging theme and aesthetic for an escape room," stated Noah Terrell a freshman political science major, a member of one of the groups that successfully completed the escape room. "It was also a really great way for students to learn about UPC and what other things they have going on,"

UPC is a student led organization that is responsible for planning and holding events that will interest students. The have previously hosted events such as the Back to School Bash, Terracotta Pot Painting and Midnight Breakfast. These events are held on campus and free to all students.

"I'm excited to go to different events with my friends in the future. It's a good way to meet others and be involved on campus," said student Josie Jones.

Next, UPC will be hosting a Glow Golf event in the Student Activity Center on Oct. 2 from 7 to 9 pm.

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Viewpoints

Letter from the editor

By WAID JONES, Editor-in-chief



Waid Jones, Editor of the Alabamian

As students move through their collegiate career and "who they are" becomes more and more defined it is easy to feel like you've lost yourself. Coming into this academic year I've been really struggling with this. I'm a political science major and I have a strange combination of PR and newspaper practical experience.

I'm the editor of The Alabamian, and work as a student writer in Marketing and Communications at UM. At first glance these don't really look like they mesh together well, especially when you consider that until this summer I thought that I wanted a PhD in political science. These environments are almost diametrically opposed to be honest, and I've had to come to this realization which one I want to work in.

I also spent much of my time in my junior and senior year of high school enthralled with photography and photo journalism, and when I graduated from high school that's what I thought I wanted to do. That bubble burst quickly.

Everything I wanted to do was "hard" the creative part of photography I loved, but the business side of it I hated. (Weddings, I also hated weddings, loved going, hated photographing them).

Because of this, I stopped. Almost unilaterally I gave up on seeing myself as a "creative". I joined the military, mostly because it was an "easy option". It didn't leave much uncertainty and held a lot of safety. The problem was that the rigidity and structured approach led me to filling unfulfilled creatively, so I went looking for an outlet.

I had my camera gear shipped to me and took some portraits of friends and myself. I loved this, I got back into strobe photography and even did some work for a friend I am confident will be famous within five years.

The problem was that once again I didn't stick with it, I was good, but I didn't market myself. I wasn't confident in my skills even though others were. It was frustrating, but in the end, I shelved the camera and sold it for something more "practical" (large, professional camera bodies and lenses are heavy and don't travel well).

I've regretted this sale ever since as I loved that camera and still feel as if I sold away a part of my identity.

I separated from the military and then came to UM, I found my creativity in writing but was still missing something. I didn't really know what I wanted to do until I fell head-over-heels in love with political science. I also found The Alabamian and this amazing community of people that helped push me to where I am today, I've gotten a fantastic job as a student worker are through it and I've met amazing people.

But, until recently I would admit how different these things were, but I didn't try to reconcile them into a career that I wanted to pursue. Something creative and analytical that meshed my love of statistics and numbers with my love of photography and videography. I think I've found it now, but it was only by admitting to myself that I can be both and pushing myself to absorb as much from the opportunities that are presented me and utilize my liberal arts education to maximize my education.

Montevallo really shines when you push yourself outside of class through getting involved in things that don't really fit into your future plan. These arbitrary limitations we set on ourselves often hold us back far more than we want to admit. Some of my favorite projects that I've tackled involved me finding where my creative inclinations and my analytic thinking mesh together.

So, after you read this issue I'd like to challenge you to push yourself in a different direction and find something that challenges you in ways you would have never expected.

Is Disney + Really worth it?

By JAY BEND

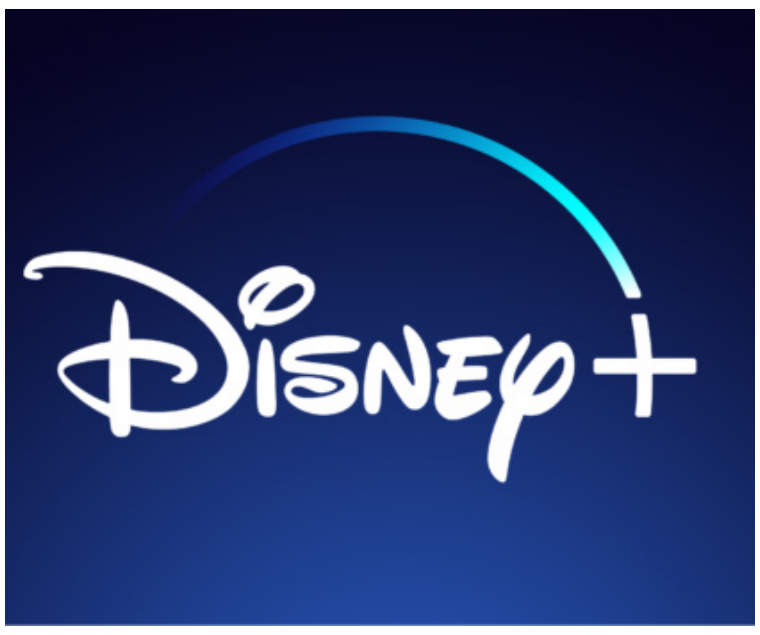


Photo coutesy of The Walt Disney Company

With the oversaturation of today's media, the last thing we need is another subscription service to sign up for. Unfortunately, it seems that once again the powerhouse that is Disney has found a way to try to dominate another aspect of entertainment.

The concept behind their business model is mainly fueled by the constant feud between them and Netflix, because of this Disney plans on challenging Netflix for both profit and content. However, Netflix is not the only service in the game. Along with them, you have Hulu, Amazon Prime Video, Crackle, HBO Now, CBS All Access and many more.

Out of all the streaming platforms that I mentioned, only YouTube, Hulu, Amazon and Netflix have some form of access to Disney content; However, YouTube and Amazon make you pay a rental fee.

With Disney's streaming platform, they plan on getting rid of the idea of rental fees altogether.

So how are they planning on doing this?

They have started to attack the problem using a new tactic by creating new content not only from their namesake company but also Marvel Studios as well as Lucas Entertainment. Along with that, they also plan on placing older content on to their new plat form as well.

The best thing about it is that you get all of it for one simple fee.

But who's going to pay for it exactly? The world of streaming has become an extremely competitive platform. Each cable network, movie studio and content distributer have some form of streaming platform coming out that either is meant to mimic Netflix in some form or piggyback off this new streaming trend.

Based off what I've seen, there are a lot of reasons people feel like Disney Plus is an amazing thing. From the idea of new Marvel and "Star Wars" content to just the idea of nostalgia at the touch of our fingertips.

But is it worth it?

Also, what about Disney's most recent acquisition of Fox? How do they plan on taking the content of a completely different brand and somehow merging it with theirs?

As we know the Fox brand is not so "family friendly". Does that then mean Disney would have to create a whole new service for it or could they create a subcategory and just plug everything in there, even the adult-related content?

I feel that this is Disney trying to rake in as much revenue as possible.

Now, yes, the content could be amazing and intriguing, but why not just put these different shows on their existing cable networks that they currently own, such as Freeform, ABC, Disney Channel, Nat Geo and ESPN just turn those into streaming services. The amount of revenue that could be made and the number of devices impacted could be astronomical.

It all goes back to us living in the era of cord cutting.

More and more households are getting away from the idea of cable, so a lot of companies have found ways to make money from it. Everything from the Amazon Fire Stick to the Google Chrome Cast has found its way into the everyday household. So, it makes perfect sense on why Disney would choose, of all things, a streaming service.

Disney's business models may be a little iffy at times, at the end of the day they still tend to make good content whether it's on film or television, except for Disney Channel.

So, if you are a Marvel fan and looking for your constant fix, Disney Plus is the platform for you. If you have an undying love for Star Wars and are interested in the new series they are creating, Disney Plus is the platform for you. Even if you are having this longing to revisit your childhood with both classical animated movies and old school Disney Channel shows, then Disney Plus is most definitely the avenue for you.

Either way, Disney has a lot of money with a lot of content so we will see how it turns out in the future.

If you are interested in Disney +, it launches Nov 12 of this year.

HAVE AN OPINION?

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PRACTICE WRITING FOR A DEADLINE

GAIN VALUABLE EXPERIENCE FOR YOUR RESUME.

JOIN THE ALABAMIAN

MEETINGS: WEDNESDAYS AT 5 P.M. STUDENT PUBLICATIONS OFFICE

Moths: The Bees of The Night

By KATY BARNES

Science can be a difficult thing to talk about. Many don't understand it, and many more are scared of it. This is what artists Wendy DesChene and Jeff Schmuki call Science Friction. With their clever satire and unique way of looking at science through the lens of art, they've found many ways to combat this sense of science friction. One such way is through their creation of the Moth Garden.

The Moth Garden came about as a way to educate the world about the importance and beauty of pollinating species. Species like bees are suffering from Colony Collapse Disorder, which stems from the usage of neonicotinoid poisons within many plants ranging from corporate-owned farms to plants one might find at Home Depot.

The purpose of this poison is to act as insecticide but because of this, pollinators also end up picking it up. This causes the creature's synapses to become interrupted causing them to die. Most of the time when discussing pollinating species, people mention bees. Moths, however, are just as important and just as endangered.

Moths are second shift pollinators, which means that during the night they continue the pollination process. Much like bees, they've been suffering an intense decline due to insecticide. Unlike bees, moths are easier to show off to the public.

DesChene explained that moths aren't as scary as bees, especially when lit up in the manor of the moth garden. They can't hurt you, people aren't allergic to them and they're just easier to keep in a van. By showing off the beauty of the moths, DesChene says people become less scared of insects as a whole.

"It's wild to see something that's thought of this ugly thing have such beautiful designs. There are moths with designs on them like skulls or moons – ugly to society can actually be really beautiful," said sophomore, costume design major Kayla Twilley.

By showing off the moths via the garden, it also allows the duo to talk about the things that go into our food. Schmuki states that one of their goals is to campaign for transparency concerning what we eat.

"Many people don't know what they're eating and there are people who want to keep it that way," said Schmuki.

Currently, one out of every three bites are bee pollinated, but



Hannah Irlan observing the exhibit. Photo by Katy Barnes

with the decline of bees and the incline of genetic experiments this is likely to change.

DesChene and Schmuki don't only focus on inspiring discussion around pollination, they also focus on all types of natural conservation. In addition to their exhibit, they brought a trailer filled with robotic plants called Plantbot Genetics. Schmuki defines it as a "Satirical Biotech Company" - it acts as a play on actual companies who continuously blur the line between natural and not.

When you walk into the trailer, you are immediately surrounded by robotic plants with different functions, most designed to sing and dance at the viewer. This is another attempt to dissuade Science Friction.

"Humor's a great way to begin discussion," stated Schmuki. "It gives us traction to start discussing more serious issues."

By seeing these robots, the artist hopes that it inspires more questions.

The goal of this art exhibit is to get people thinking – thinking about the world they live in and the things they eat. Through the combination of the lab and the garden students can start to think about the two worlds of science and art in less distant terms.

SGA approved budget, discussed QEP



By HARRISON NEVILLE
SGA COLUMIST

The SGA senate held their second meeting of the fall semester on Wednesday, Sept. 11. The meeting was presided over by Thomas Dillard, the student trustee, in the place of Madison Hall the SGA vice president. The only bill on the agenda was the bill to approve the SGA budget for the next fiscal year. The bill was tabled until next week.

On Wednesday, Sept. 18, SGA met again for their annual meeting. Before the Senate meeting began, there was a presentation given by the topic selection committee for the Quality Enhancement Plan or QEP.

The presentation was led by Dr. Sherry Ford, a professor in the communication studies field and head of the committee.

In order for the University to be reaffirmed by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, also known as SACSCOC, the University of Montevallo must create a QEP, which according to the SACSCOC "reflects and affirms a commitment to enhance overall institutional quality and effectiveness by focusing on an issue that the institution considers important to improving student learning outcomes and/or student success."

The committee is currently considering two topics and will soon move to picking a topic and recommending it at which point an entirely different committee will take over.

The topics currently under consideration are quantitative reasoning and professional development.

If quantitative reasoning is picked, then it will focus on the problems students struggle with involving quantitative reasoning revealed through ACT scores and surveys done by the university.

Dr. Scott Varagona, an associate professor of mathematics, was the leader of the team focusing on quantitative reasoning.

"It's not just about math," said Varagona. "It's about so much more than that."

According to Varagona, the key idea for focusing on quantitative reasoning is not to force students to take more math, but rather to help them to utilize quantitative reasoning in their own fields.

"We want students to learn how to use data within their own discipline," Varagona said.

Next Dr. Clark Hultquist, a member of the Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences, was elected by his colleagues to talk about professional development.

For Hultquist and his colleagues focusing on professional development, the goal was to better help prepare students for the realities that would be awaiting them once they left college. He wants to know what skills students would want for the future and to help them acquire them.

"We want to get you ready right out of the box," said Hultquist.

After the presentation was complete, members of the SGA directed several questions towards the professors. One senator inquired if the two options could be combined in order to get the best of both worlds.

"Yes, they could possibly," said Ford.

The main problem with doing this that Ford saw, however, was that they needed to keep their goals manageable. They didn't want to bite off more than would be feasible to fully accomplish, so it would be preferable to just focus on one.

Ford also pointed out that there was no reason that individual departments or professors couldn't choose to focus on one of the options within their own teaching if they felt that it was something that their students needed from them.

An electronic survey involving the QEP will be sent out in October.

After the questions wrapped up, the SGA held their normal senate meeting.

For executive officer reports, it was reported that a total of 53 donors went to the SGA sponsored blood drive. The SGA plans to host another blood drive in a few months.

SGA president Olivia Eldridge and Student Trustee Thomas Dillard will meet with university representatives to discuss how parking will be affected by the construction of the new business building. They stated that they intend to end out an email to students about the situation.

For old business, the bill for the budget was passed.

For new business, the Senate passed a bill changing the hour requirements for Mr. and Ms. Montevallo from 90 credit hours to 84 credit hours in order to allow those who are on track to graduate in four years, but intend to take more classes their senior year a chance to be elected.

The Senate had to vote to suspend their rules of voting to allow for them to make an immediate vote instead of waiting a week as per usual simply because the nomination for Mr. and Ms. Montevallo were Wednesday Oct. 25, which would be the next time they'd meet.

Magician for non-belivers

By CALEB JONES



Magician Peter Boie showcases his straitjacks escape technique. Photo by Caleb Jones

On Wednesday Sept 25, UPC (University Program Council) brought renowned travelling magician Peter Boie to perform in Palmer Hall.

Boie performed for UM students as well as visiting Montevallo citizens and children. Using his humor and the appeal of his original magic tricks Boie engaged the audience, incorporating students throughout the show to assist him in his tricks.

Sophomore exercise and nutrition science major Gracie Benefield said she really enjoyed the performance.

"I am a skeptic when it comes to magic tricks. However, I was honestly surprised by his magical performance. They were fascinating and overall entertaining. I enjoyed the trick with the egg," Benefield said, referencing Boie seemingly morphing a plastic egg into a real one. "I'm still trying to figure out how he made the hole disappear."

A magician of 27 years, Boie has traveled around the country performing for college campuses and celebrities such as Tom Brady and the New England Patriots, showcasing his carefully honed art.

He said his career has taken him to universities big and small. "I've been to a lot of interesting places."

Boie has performed in every state except for Hawaii but hopes to perform there one day as well, stating that when it happens it will probably be the most interesting place he'll have ever been to.

Recently, Boie got the chance to perform on the CW Network's hit magic TV show "Penn and Teller: Fool Us", which he says was an awesome and eye-opening experience.

"It's always a lifetime dream to be on TV," said Boie, "and to do that and help your career and do something like that, it was really exciting."

Boie said it was also really interesting experience to see how TV works behind the scenes and all the details that go into it. "I got to see just how many people are involved in making a TV show, and it's insane!"

Boie said the people he performs for really make being a magician worthwhile and rewarding.

"I'm not curing cancer or anything, but some people will come up to me after the show and be like hey, I've been really down and depressed lately, or maybe just not feeling very well or just melancholy, and they'll be like hey man that was really fun," Boie stated.

"It's really rewarding."

He said the process of a show is very rewarding as well. "Being able to be creative and working on the show and spending time in my workshop so to speak. And then taking an idea from nothing and then once it gets on stage it's a super-duper rewarding experience as a performer, and as an artist, just to make nothing into something. Just the creation process and seeing it come to life is really just so rewarding."

Boie has been nominated for several awards over the years, such as 'Entertainer of the Year 2015' from Campus Activities Magazine, as well as 'Best Variety Performer' (2010, 2011, 2012, 2013), 'Fastest Rising Star' (2010 and 2012) and 'Best Male Performer' (2011 and 2012).

Gulf South conference players of the week

Courtesy of UM Athletics





Photos coutesy of UM Athletics

University of Montevallo junior forward Nemanja Acimovic received Gulf South Conference weekly honors from the conference office this week.

Acimovic was named the GSC Player of the Week for his play against Palm Beach Atlantic and Christian Brothers last week. The forward led the Falcons' offensive attack, scoring three goals in a 4-0 win over Christian Brothers. The Belgrade, Serbia native added five shots, including one on goal, in the 1-0 loss to Palm Beach Atlantic.

This is the first GSC weekly award for Acimovic this season.

University of Montevallo sophomore goalkeeper Annie Mason received Gulf South Conference weekly honors from the conference office this week.

Mason was named the GSC Co-Defender of the Week for her play against St. Leo and Tampa this past weekend. The goalkeeper led the Falcons for 200 minutes in goal. The sophomore totaled nine saves in a double overtime, 1-1 tie against St. Leo. Mason also registered six saves in a 3-0 shut-out win over Tampa. Mason has totaled 22 saves and two shut outs this season, while only allowing one goal.

Mason was named GSC Co-Defender of the Week along with Jenni Aarniva of West Alabma who totaled nine saves and one shut out this past weekend.

Mason leads the GSC with a .957 save percentage.

This is the second GSC weekly award for Mason this season.

THIS WEEKS SCORES

Sept. 19	Men's Soccer: Montevallo 1 No. 19 Clayton State 0
Sept. 20	Volleyball : Montevallo 3 Southern Arkansas 1
Sept. 21	Women's Soccer: Montevallo 2 Florida Tech 1 Men's Soccer: Montevallo 0 Francis Marion 2 Volleyball: Montevallo 1 Augusta 3 Volleyball: Montevallo 1 West Alabama 3
Sept. 23-24	Men's Golf: 16th place, 42 - over 849
Sept. 24	Volleyball: Montevallo 3 AUM 2
Sept. 25	Men's Soccer: Montevallo 1 Saint Leo 3

Submit your news tips to alabamian@montevallo.edu

OCTOBER **2019**

ATHLETICS SCHEDULE

FRI 4

5:00 PM **Volleyball (Shorter)**
Rome, GA

5:00 PM **Men's Soccer (West Florida)**
Pensacola FL

7:30 PM **Women's Soccer (West Florida)**
Pensacola FL

SAT 5

1:00 PM **Volleyball (Lee)**
Cleveland, TN

Women's Cross Country (Chile Pepper Festival)
Fayetville, AR

Men's Cross Country (Chile Pepper Festival)
Fayetville, AR

SUN 6

1:00 PM **Women's Soccer (Spring Hill)**
Mobile, AL

3:30 PM **Men's Soccer (Spring Hill)**
Mobile, AL

1:00 PM **Men's Soccer (Francis Marion)**
Florence, AL

MON 7

Men's Golf (Delta State Invitational)
Cleveland, MS

FRI 11

Olympics Day Golf Tournament
Montevallo, AL

5:00 PM **Women's Soccer (West Florida)**
Montevallo, AL

6:00 PM **Volleyball (West Florida)**
Montevallo, AL

7:30 PM **Men's Soccer (West Florida)**
Montevallo, AL

SAT 12

1:00 PM **Volleyball (UAH)**
Huntsville, AL

SUN 13

1:00 PM **Women's Soccer (UAH)**
Montevallo, AL

3:30 PM **Men's Soccer (UAH)**
Montevallo, AL



REANNA'S REALITY CHECK

By REANNA PIPES
LIFESTYLES COLUMNIST

Dear Reanna,

I'm in my junior year and halfway through getting my Marketing degree. The course work is getting more difficult and I find myself not enjoying my major classes as much as I have in past semesters. I'm not even sure if this is what I want to do for the rest of my life. All I feel is stress and worry when I think about my classes and the future.

I've thought about changing my major but can't see the point when I'm already halfway through college. The thought of wasting so much time makes me want to just drop out of college completely. It's just a lot to go through and I don't know how to handle it. Do you have any suggestions?

Thanks,
Burnout Boy

Dear Burnout,

My first piece of advice is to take a deep breath. Going to college is stressful enough on its own and being not sure if you're in the right major makes it even worse.

A great idea for when you're on the fence about your major is to talk to your advisor. Yes, your advisor is going to do their best to keep you in the department, but they can also give you an idea about what marketing is like in the real world. They might even set it up for you to shadow someone in the field. Taking the classes and actually using what you learn are two very different things.

As for changing your major, that is not a bad thing and countless college students do it every semester. At the moment, yes, it may feel like you're wasting time and money if you change your major, but imagine how you might feel after you have graduated. You would have a degree in something you don't want a job in, and then you would really be starting over.

If you are not sure about what your new potential major would be, then stop by the Career Development Center in Farmer Hall. I have changed my major twice through them and was able to find one that was right for me and hopefully they can do the same for you.

Dropping out may seem like a quick and easy decision now, but it will make things worse in the long run. College is hard but the benefits can last a lifetime.

Hi Reanna,

So, for the longest time, I've wanted to cut my hair. I don't mean just a trim either. The plan was to chop it all off but I can never make myself go through with it. Friends have even driven me to the salon but I always chicken out. I think a part of my fear is that I'm a girl and worry about what people will think if I get a "boy" haircut. I'm worried people won't think I'm a girl. It seems silly, but do you have any advice for not being scared to cut it?

Sincerely,
To Cut or Not to Cut

Dear To Cut,

I would first like to say that it is not a silly problem. Making a physical change to your appearance is something that makes a lot of people nervous. I think it is good that you are putting so much thought into the process.

A great way to give yourself the push you need to make the big chop could be to talk to a hairstylist before you actually get it cut. Just sitting down with a professional and getting their opinion and knowing what the process is like can really comfort you. If you are having trouble picturing yourself with short hair, maybe try on a wig with a similar length and ease yourself into what it might look like.

As for worrying about what others will think, I want to remind you that women have been rocking traditional "boy" haircuts for years. Kristen Stewart, Halle Berry and Cara Delevingne have been wearing their hair in short and "masculine styles" without sacrificing their femininity.

You can always ask your friends and family what they think of getting a different hairstyle, but at the end of the day it comes down to what you want. At the end of the day you can also remind yourself that hair always grows back.

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Shameless Literature: In Defense of Fanfiction



By KATY BARNES
LIFESTYLES COLUMNIST

Whenever I admit to people that I read fanfiction, I usually get one of two responses, either people are shocked that I would openly admit it, or they quietly agree that they read fanfiction as well, almost as if it's something to be ashamed of. I don't understand either of these reactions, after all, fanfiction is not only fun, but it's also incredibly important as well.

The art of modern-day fanfiction has existed long before the internet. In the past, people would mail their stories back and forth, like a fan club. Usually, it was very small groups of people, such as groups of friends. However, widely shared fanfiction can trace its origin where most modern fandom practices do – The Trekkies, specifically female Trekkies.

"Star Trek" fans in the late 1960s would publish fanzines filled with information about the show as well as art and writings to share with other fans. These writings were usually consisting of short, one chaptered story labeled as "one shots" and, yes, some were about Spock and Kirk falling in love. The first one was called "Spockanalia" and it went on to produce five issues filled with fan created content. Gene Roddenberry even wrote to them once, calling it "Required Reading" for any new writer of the TV show.

Today, fanzines still exist but they're not the most popular way to consume fanfiction. With the invention of the internet, groups of fans, commonly known as a fandom, has moved away from publishing and mailing out content and moved towards creating online spaces. Fan created forums such as Fanfiction.net and Archive Of Our Own (or as it's known AO3); These are two of the most popular websites for hosting fanfiction now, and there are millions of fandoms and writers posting every day.

With the popularity boom of fanfiction sites, many young people have found that to be their first foray into becoming both a competent writer and a critical reader. For example, without AO3 many young writers would never get the chance to get unbiased criticism on their works. Comments aren't only encouraged, they're expected on any fanfiction site. Well thought out critiques are a vital part of the fanfiction process, helping people improve their craft and still have fun.

Sometimes, fanfiction can act as a vessel to becoming a published author. As many know "Fifty Shades of Grey" started off as a "Twilight" fanfiction. Originally, it was posted to Fanfiction.net under the title "Master of the Universe", and only minimal changes were made to get the book series many know now. Wattpad also regularly runs contests to print physical copies of their most popular titles, and you can see them being sold in stores like Target.

Fanfiction also allows fans to take the reins of their favorite story and play in the sandbox created by the author. No single author can explore every single aspect of a character and some authors personal vantage points cloud them from being able to see a character's potential.

For a long time, members of the LGBTQ+ community have been using fanfiction as a means of representation. Slash fiction, a genre of fanfiction focusing on character pairings such as Spock/Kirk, is still hugely popular today because it exists as a way for minorities to be seen. Long before official companies decided to reboot white characters into characters of other races, fan creators were doing that because it allowed their favorite characters to resemble them.

Fanfiction can also be used as a tool to live out fantasies, either for your favorite character or for yourself. One popular fanfiction trope is to take characters from one property and put them at Hogwarts, for example. AU is the official term for stories like this and it acts as a way to explore what if scenarios that the author may not be able to pursue.

Self-insert fanfictions are another way to use fanfiction to the authors advantage. It allows them to become a part of the story they love, much in the same vein as Dungeons and Dragons. Some people play video games to escape, some people write. It acts as the same sort of relief from the world. In fact, the longest work of literature ever is a self-insert Super Smash Brother fanfiction called, "The Subspace Emissary's Worlds Conquest" at 4,102,217 words.

Not only is fanfiction important to the fan, but it is important to the literary world as well. After all, both "The Divine Comedy" and "Romeo and Juliet" are both based off of preexisting works – is that not the definition of fanfiction? Outside of classic literature, there are classes in colleges, such as Princeton, designed to studying "My Immortal" - possibly the most notorious fanfiction ever.

In the end, fanfiction exists for the fans. Just this past summer, Archive of Our Own won the Hugo Award for Best Related Work, naming every single fanfiction writer on the site a Hugo Award Winner.

"All fanwork, from fanfic to vids to fanart to podfic, centers the idea that art happens not in isolation but in community," said Naomi Novik, co-founder of the Archive, said in her acceptance speech. By creating fanfiction, fandoms grow bigger, and when they grow there's more fandom to enjoy.

So, the next time you feel shame when you decide to read a fanfic, think about why you love being a fan and ignore those who might make fun. Fanfic readers and writers have been creating for decades, and you logging onto AO3 is just a part of the creative lineage that comes before you. You're becoming a part of history and that's pretty cool.



Horoscopes

By PEYTON LANG

Aries ♈ Romance is in the air for Aries! Libra season calls for your relationships to be on the front lines of it all. Partnerships are looking promising. Take chances this upcoming week and have those big talks!

Taurus ♉ Form new and healthy habits the coming weeks! Decluttering and reorganizing in the coming will bring you much comfort. It's a good time to adopt the philosophy that "less is more". Your environment can make or break your mood. So, use your free time to foster an environment that will keep you inspired.

Gemini ♊ There's no better time than now to put your happiness first, Gemini! You're in need of something lighthearted and fun. Surround yourself with good company; it's necessary for your mental health. Prioritize you!

Cancer ♋ This is one of the happiest times of the year for you, lil crab! Prioritize yourself and renovate or start a small, new project. Your home and the environment you are in will become important to you as it will bring you much comfort.

Leo ♌ Take advantage of all of your resources, Leo. Whether you know it or not, your connections are resourceful and will be helpful to you very soon! Let your creative energy flow these next couple of weeks.

Virgo ♍ Your focus shifts to finance this week and not in a bad way! You are being practical and responsible. This calls for celebrating you!

Libra ♎ Whatever you set your mind to now, you can create in the coming month. Don't listen to haters! Their negativity only reflects their inner feelings towards themselves. It's a new chapter starting, so make what you want of it!

Scorpio ♏ Sometimes, you just have to accept that not everything is in your control. Once you do, you'll find that it's much easier to be comfortable. Use the next couple of weeks to wind down and catch up on lost rest.

Sagittarius ♐ It's looking good in your career zone, Sag! Get out there and network with people who really care about giving you the chance that you deserve.

Capricorn ♑ Make your mark! Your talents and gifts are on display for all to see. However, remember to stay humble. It's very important that you manage to do this in a charming and gracious manner.

Aquarius ♒ This week has been intense. It's time for a break! You deserve it. This will set you up for success in the coming weeks!

Pisces ♓ Resolve those situations that are still unsettled! Unsettled issues are holding you back from the success you deserve. It's time to open up a little. Meet with those special friends, counselors, or therapists and let them help you navigate through this time.

Spotify PLAYLIST — FLOATING INTO FALL

By The ALABAMIAN STAFF

The Call – Regina Spektor
This song is about returning to something you loved and trying to remember why you loved it. For some, fall can feel like this.

Back to Autumn – Tall Heights
The smooth melody of acoustic guitar of this tune is a reminder of what fall means. While there is a sadness in change because we miss the past, there is also beauty in things becoming new. Autumn is a great time for self-reflection, but don't forget to take comfort in being yourself too.

You and I – Ingrid Michaelsons
Fall feels like the most cuddly time of year. A time where you can sit, wrapped in a blanket and imagine your future.

Where You Lead I Will Follow – Carole King
Do the words "Gilmore Girls" give enough explanation for this song? While our cozy fall feelings for this song may stem directly from the "Gilmore Girls" intro they can't be denied.

Autumn in New York – Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong
Fitzgerald's iconic dulcet tones, and Armstrong's gravelly voice that strike all of the right feelings about the season. The slow tempo makes a perfect comparison to the slower vibes of the fall season, gone is the fast-paced summer and now we're left with the almost lullaby quality of this famous jazz duo.

Eet - Regina Spektor
This is our "laying on Flower Hill as a crisp breeze blows around you" song. It lulls you into the moment. While you might forget the words to this song you won't forget that feeling.

Time - Mikky Ekko
Everything lasts for but a season, a Truth taught to us by the death of the leaves in Autumn. All things exist in state of perpetual transience, as lessons are learned from what is lost. What better line than "we fall like leaves in the Garden of Eden", a testament to how we must shed our old selves to adapt to our everchanging reality, lest we drown in the melancholy of what used to be.

Submit your comics to *alabamian@montevallo.edu* for a chance to be featured in our next issue!

Sucky Conversations by Laura DeRocher



Incoming freshman senators share plans

By JAMIE BROWDER



Josie Shae, Abbie Clark, and Cody Hodge, newly elecgted freshman senators. Photo by Kat Bell



Josie Shaw, Freshman senator. Photo by Kat Bell.

Josie Shaw, 18, mass communication and art major with a minor in film

Josie Shaw is hoping to produce movies in his career, and these aspirations have led him to feel passionate about finding the means to create a better environment for students.

"I want to be the person to sometimes come up with ideas, but also be the person to find the means to make things happens," said Shaw. "That's what I want to be known for in SGA."

He is hoping to make changes, in the footsteps of last year's freshman senators, moving toward making UM more accessible for students with mental health issues.

"There's a lot more that needs to be done, in my opinion, to make freshmen feel comfortable in transition to the campus, whether it's stress from classes or social situations," Shaw expressed.



Abbie Clark Freshman senator. Photo by Kat Bell.

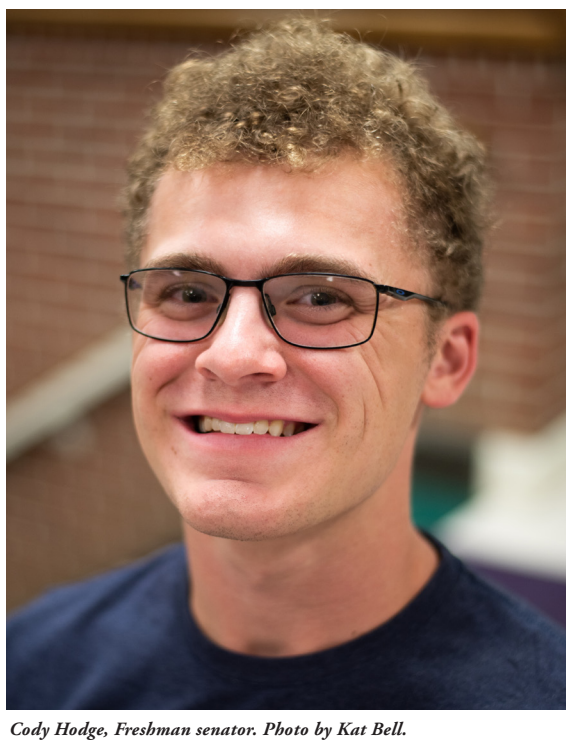
Abbie Clark, 18, general studies major

Abbie Clark decided to run because of her past leadership roles she held in high school. She hopes that the next year will prove to be beneficial for freshman having their voices heard.

"I'm willing to talk about anything and they can come find me at anytime and talk about anything good or bad. I'm definitely down to resolve any issues or make things better."

She is looking most forward to attempting to create a better map system throughout campus.

"I think that having better maps throughout campus will be a really good addition to montevallo and student life," said Clark.



Cody Hodge, Freshman senator. Photo by Kat Bell.

Cody Hodge, 19, political science major

Cody Hodge decided to run for freshman forum because of his interest in politics and the aspirations of his career. He is looking forward to being a link between freshman students and SGA.

"The thing I'm most passionate about is getting the chance to have a hands-on experience with government, even though it's on a smaller level," shared Hodge.

In the next year he is hoping to develop an organization to pick up trash around campus. He believes changes such as these will help impact the student body positively, and with that he hopes that students find him to be accessible.

"I'm approachable, and if anyone wants to come to me to discuss something that's been bothering them, no matter what it is, I'll listen to them," said Hodge.

GHOST WALK

October 26, 6-8:30 PM

Meet at Palmer Hall

Photo Page





Gally Ozment & Nolan Evans



Tyler Enclade, Andrew Argote, & Victoria Pentecost



Bailey Glasgow, Ryan Rorick, & Kensley Sandlin



Purple Side Cheering



Taylor Rosser, Mikayla Steele, & Meredith Vaughn



Dakota Patrick & Bria Owens



Alex Binion & Ryke Holt



Victoria Pentecost & Ashlyn Dismukes



Johnathan Everhart

Photos by Kat Bell

The Alabamian

Vol. 94, No. 4

Monday, October 21, 2019

Bloom wins Life Raft Debate

By By WAID JONES, Editor-in-cheif



Dr. Laura Bloom celebrates her win. Photo by Kat Bell

Dr. Laura Bloom, professor of Family and Consumer Sciences, won the 23rd annual Life Raft Debate and secured her spot on the Life Raft and the coveted oar.

On Oct. 10 in Palmer Auditorium the survivors of a fictional catastrophic event gathered to decide which one of the professors vying for a spot on the coveted Life Raft would get one.

The event, in its 22nd year, has professors defend their discipline for a chance to be "saved," or in the case of the devil's advocate, argue for no one to be saved.

Dr. Scott Varagona served as the night's emcee, opening the debate with a short message acknowledging those who worked to organize and stream the event, and gave special recognition to Drs. Andrea Eckelman and Aimee Mellon, as well as Cheryl and Michael Patton.

Varagona who has participated in the event for the last seven years, almost a third of the debate's lifespan, set the scene by explaining the premise and providing the rules.

Dr. Alex Beringer, associate professor of English, and last year's winner, was the first to give his argument for being saved.

Beringer started with a reprise of his arguments from the previous Life Raft Debate and discussed how humanity may be its biggest enemy and showed a slide from his previous winning performance.

"All good poetry is the spontaneous overflow of feelings," said Beringer, who based much of his argument on the power of literature and poetry to bridge boundaries and provided that literature gives us a heightened sense of the world around us.

"Figurative language connects to a heightened form of figurative experience," finished Beringer.

He was followed by Brook Pruitt from the Mass Communication program who argued that he should be saved for his ability to entertain the audience. Relying, not on rhetorical devices, but instead presenting jokes in his defense.

The would-be comedian, Pruitt, discussed his name, his hometown in Beebe, Arkansas, including a joke about meth labs and the reason for which he decided to become a professor instead of a gynecologist. Pruitt finished by discussing his marriage.

Pruitt's jokes drew mixed laughter from the audience, while some fell completely flat.

Drawing on his background as a marketing professor, Dean Stephen Craft, broke his argument down into a simple four-letter word: "love."

Then, in stark criticism of dating apps and modern hookup culture, Craft structured his argument around how business, especially the business of dating apps, is a major part of how students find love in their lives.

"If you can't post about it on Instagram is it really real?" Craft said, he then finished his opening argument by recalling his initial statement, "I urge you to include business for your own sake, and for love."

After the initial arguments, participants were given 5 minutes for rebuttal

Beringer stated that English is not about tearing their competitors' arguments down, while proceeding to attempt to poke holes in his opponents' arguments. He then noted that he did not see the virtues in marketing, in regard to Craft, or how pushups, meth labs, gynecology would have anything to do with the apocalypse, in regard to Pruitt.

Pruitt responded with a magic trick that attempted to win the audience over through spectacle.

Then, Dr. Steve Parker, another former winner of the Life Raft Debate, came out on stage as the devil's advocate.

"Bless their hearts they tried," said Parker as the opening salvo of his argument against saving the other participants. Then said that he would be putting away childish things and discussing the real problem with saving anyone.

"These are all good people, I respect them as colleagues, as human beings and as friends. I would take brook home to meet my mother, or a great aunt," the professor of sociology stated, going on to indicate that he "would love to smoke opium and dream about big birds on boats," in reference to Beringer.

Of Pruitt, Parker stated that he felt as if the Mass Communication professor sounded like he was attempting to sell him a vacuum.

"We don't need, we don't need, we don't need Mass Communication Professors," noted Parker, in reference to an earlier statement by Pruitt which indicated that no one is interested in reading books.

However, Parker began to dig deeper when he discussed Blooms arguments for FCS. Stating that he did not wish to be seen only as a consumer.

"I am more than that," with Parker passionately arguing that each professor on the stage was more than the few points that they boiled themselves down to for the debate.

The night's winner, Dr. Laura Bloom, professor of family and consumer sciences at UM, argued that

"I'm here to save your lives," stated Bloom, using the game of life as a prop to prove her point.

Then, leveraging her position as the director of the UM child study center, Bloom argued that she would help transition the passengers of the life raft to their new life through education. Giving a more substantive approach to her plans to save the audience.

Bloom noted that her discipline is about how we live our lives. Insisting that the world we might live in, and that rebuilding after an apocalyptic event would require knowing about the basics about how humans have to live.

After the debate was over, but before the winner was announced, Varagona returned to the stage with an envelope and to congratulate Parker for his years of dedication to the Life Raft Debate itself.



Dr. Alex Berringer, Dr. Laura Bloom and Dr. Stephen Craft. Photo by Kat Bell



Dr. Laura Bloom poses with Life Raft oar. Photo by Kat Bell

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Students Voice Concern over Life Raft Debate Joke

By JAMIE BROWDER



Brook Pruitt at the 2019 Life Raft Debate. Photo by: Kat Bell

Brook Pruitt, associate professor of communication, stood on stage at the Life Raft Debate in defense of why, he, as a mass comm professor, deserved to be on the hypothetical life raft. He chose to perform a comedy routine, in hopes to make students feel 'entertained' and win them over.

The nature of comedy is that no one has final say over what is truly funny, but people have a right to say when shock value has crossed into genuine discomfort. I firmly believe this is one of those instances.

"In 1993 when I started school, or college, I thought I wanted to be a medical doctor. To be more specific, a gynecologist," stated Pruitt. "The obvious reason for a 21-year-old male -"

He then mimes what could only be taken as a doctor opening up female genitalia, licking his finger and shoving it into the air between his fingers - "money."

This joke made me twist uncomfortably in my seat. My jaw dropped, I couldn't believe that such a vulgar and graphic joke could really be acted out at an event so deeply tied to the University.

He, as a male, will never be able to understand how personal and scary it is to have to go to a gynecologist. He can't understand how intrusive it truly is to lay there on the table, exposed, all for the betterment of your own health.

There is already so much misinformation, fear and stigma around women's health, specifically tied to gynecology.

Women's health is so important, and to see it chalked up to a way for a man to see female genitalia was truly disheartening. Furthermore, jokes like this promote fear into the minds of women that maybe they should question the intentions of their doctors.

It promotes fear, and it also promotes the objectification of women. It sends the message that they serve to do nothing more than exist as a punchline. As a male, he turned a serious women's health issue into an opportunity to objectify a uniquely female experience.

"It hit me the most because I am a woman. That visual that he made. Him as a professional and a mentor made me feel uncomfortable and unsafe. I was never expecting to feel like that. I shouldn't have to feel like that," stated Alex Warren, a junior.

As a campus that reflects so much diversity, it was hard to see such an obviously distasteful joke wash over a room of my peers. It should never be considered appropriate for any male professor to reference female genitalia as a joke.

While a video does exist of Pruitt doing almost exactly this same routine over the summer in Atlanta, the Life Raft Debate truly wasn't the time or place the air out such edgy jokes that had nothing to do with the debate itself other than him trying to prove he could entertain.

Repetition equals habit. This speaks to the fact that Pruitt has now performed this joke in multiple places, meaning that he stands behind it.

Furthermore, he also boiled mass communication down to just entertainment, which it isn't. Every single class I have taken has been about serving the public by supplying real and current news/information. A comedy routine that delves into such polarizing vulgarity isn't appropriate. Mass comm has never and will never be on a level for something like this to be acceptable.

Pruitt both failed to defend his position and made people feel uncomfortable.

What should be the response? Who needs to speak next? Maybe the University should make a statement that they do not endorse any of the messages that Pruitt shared. Should he apologize? Absolutely, because it isn't fair that students should go to a "traditional" and sanctioned event to be made to feel uncomfortable.

"Knowing the University also thinks that wasn't okay would make me feel better," shared Warren.

Why I have a brick for a phone

By HARRISON NEVILLE



A comparison of a brick and a "brick," Photo by: Kat Bell

This weekend one of my cousins was getting married in Florida. My father, sisters and I were all going and I was supposed to drive to my parents' house Thursday night so that we could all leave together on Friday morning.

Thursday before leaving, I packed all of my stuff into a large duffel bag. The bag had the usual items: clothes, toiletries and studying materials.

As I glanced about the room for anything I might have forgotten, I saw my phone charger still plugged into my power strip. I pulled out my phone and checked the charge, it read 98%. I shrugged and walked out the door, leaving my phone charger where it was.

Now, to some this particular decision of mine might seem foolish, but I doubt any of those individuals have a Sonim XP5s. On their website, Sonim describes their phones as "Ultra-rugged mobile solutions built to serve. Built to last."

I made the decision to purchase a Sonim after my last phone's screen shattered, rendering it utterly inoperable.

After my phone broke, it was a difficult process to get a new one because I'm on my grandmother's sprint account and I wasn't an authorized purchaser. Because of all this, it took me almost two weeks to get a new phone, and during this time I realized that I really enjoyed not having a smart phone.

Instead of getting distracted and spending hours on end playing a silly games on my phone or watching Netflix, I did a whole bunch of reading, something that I'd severely missed, but had assumed that I was doing less of just because I had less time, when in reality I was spending far too much time on my phone.

So, of course I realized that I still needed a phone to be able to stay in communication with everyone, but I saw no reason to get another smart phone. I wanted a phone that was tough and reliable, fully able to survive all the punishment that I would no doubt inflict upon it when I went hiking. I wanted something that didn't require more than one charge to get it through the day.

In short, I wanted a brick.

Which brings me back to my busy weekend in Florida, celebrating my cousin's marriage.

When I finally returned to my dorm tired from a long day of driving and far too little sleep, I immediately set to work wrapping up the last scraps of my homework before falling, exhausted, onto my bed.

The next day I got up for class, and realized that I still hadn't charged my phone since Thursday evening. I picked it up and checked the battery. It read 49%. I shrugged, grabbed my phone and walked out the door. I could always charge it tomorrow.

"Weir" ready for spooky season

By KATY BARNES



Above: Macy Robinson in character as Valerie teriffying listeners with the story of how her daughter died. Photo coutesy of University Marketing and Communcation

The University of Montevallo's theater season officially began last weekend with "The Weir" - written by Connor McPherson and directed by Marcus Lane. Running last weekend from October 3 to the 5, the show is a collection of ghost stories interwoven with conversation between the pub goers as they bond with their newest neighbor.

The show is set in rural Ireland and in the beginning the writing makes it clear that this pub is one of the local gathering spots for the town's tiny population. It is presented as a town where everybody knows everybody, thus making the addition of a new neighbor that much more interesting.

When Valerie, played by BFA musical theatre freshman Macy Robinson, enters, the men in the pub are falling over themselves to impress her. At first, they tell her the story of the area she has moved into, but as the night progresses the stories they tell start to become a little more supernatural.

This inspires Valerie to share the story of how her daughter died. She is convinced that her daughter's ghost called her one night. Finbar, her guide around town, played by senior Alex Binion, tries to tell her she doesn't know what she's talking about and the rest of the play is spent with the group leaving one by one.

The script of the show was interesting, but ultimately was too long for the story it was telling. "The Weir" should have ended after Valerie's monologue, but instead the show tries to go back to where it was before her revelation.

The ending which hinted at a budding romance between Valerie and Brendon, the bartender played by junior Ryan Rorick, also felt very far out of left field as well. It was not the direction I thought the ending was going to go in, but it also was not an ending I preferred either.

This is not a reflection of the actors however; they were the driving force of the show and were the reason my attention was held. All of the actors shined within their roles and I found their interactions to be believable and entertaining.

Due to the intimate setting of the show in small town, the cast had to be convincing in their closeness, and I found that all the actors within the show seemed to pull this off. Once the lights went down, I was immediately immersed within the world of "The Wier."

The set, designed by Kyle Moore and assembled by students in the technical applied classes, was very convincing as a bar, down to a functioning tap. The show had a weathered tone to it, a subtle, haunted vibe, that came through not only through the ghost stories, but through the atmosphere created by the set as well.

By staging the show in the Chi Box, rather than Reynolds ,it helped add to the ambiance of the show as well; it made the audience feel as if they were patrons of the bar. The staging was also very open – there was no moment where I felt cut off from the action of the show.

One particularly challenging aspect of the show seemed to be the accents, taught to the cast by dialect coach Michael Walker. When the show began, I feared that the dialogue would be lost beneath the accents but after a slight hiccup in the beginning, the accents became less of a distraction and more of a part of the ambiance.

Overall, I enjoyed the show and I found it both funny and sobering. The dialogue was witty and the delivery was engaging. The juxtaposition of the ghost stories and the humanness of the cast gave the show a tone of otherworldliness. It was the ambiance that made the show memorable. "The Weir" was the perfect spooky beginning to the spookiest month of the year, and I'm very glad to have seen this show.

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UM celebrates 123 Founder's Day

By ARIEL HALL

Each year, on the second Thursday of October, the University of Montevallo celebrates Founders' Day.

The convocation, which was held on Oct. 10 in Palmer Hall, highlighted UM's founding along with honoring outstanding faculty and staff, and the robing of the seniors.

This year, Founders' Day not only recognized 123 years of being a higher education institution, it also celebrated 50 years since it was renamed the University of Montevallo from Alabama College.

The theme, "A great institution is born of its time" was inspired by the preface of "Alabama College, 1896-1969" written by Lucille Griffith, former UM history professor. She wrote about the importance of adaptability in higher education institutions.

This especially referenced the many changes that the University has gone through since it was founded as Alabama Girl's Industrial School in 1896 and changed its name for the final time 50 years ago.

After being welcomed by President John Stewart III, alumnus and educator Dr. Lonnie Edwards delivered the keynote speech.

Edwards was one of the first two African American athletes at the University. Since graduating in 1971, Edwards has worked for multiple public school systems in various capacities and has earned several professional awards.

During his speech, Edwards described how he came to UM and what it taught him about life. He also recognized the contribution of women to UM becoming what it is.

"If you're ever going to make a move in life, you have to get out of your comfort zone. Your comfort zone is not a safe place," Edwards said. "Montevallo was a great fit to me. We enrolled here and we were committed to making a difference in our lives and the lives of those we were associated with."

He also mentioned in his speech, that shortly before returning to Montevallo, he and his business partner signed a movie contract about teachers reaching past boundaries beyond the classroom.

After reciting the poem "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost, Edwards ended his speech by saying: "Montevallo chose me and I chose Montevallo, a perfect fit. And ladies and gentleman, that has made all the difference."

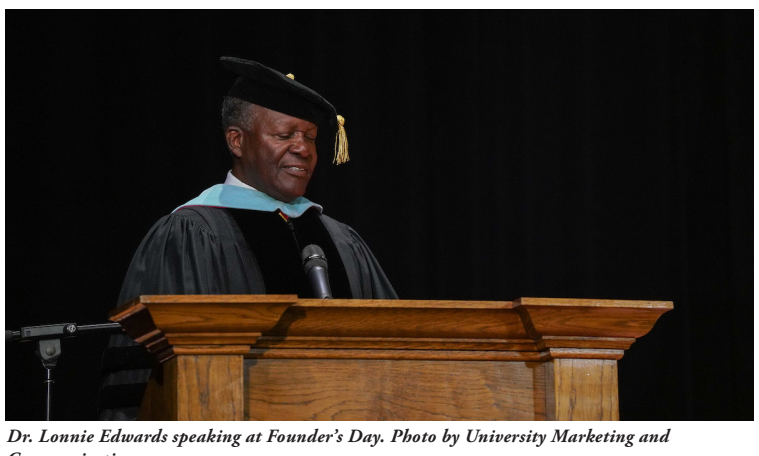
UM's men's basketball team also came on stage to share a moment with Edwards by gifting him a signed basketball.

Following the keynote speech, the senior students donned their academic regalia for the first time, while Dr. Mary Beth Armstrong led the investiture with Kendall Criswell, senior class president. The family, friends, alumni, faculty and staff applauded in approval.

Founders' Day is the first time seniors recognize all of their endeavors that they've made and it is their first opportunity to don their black graduation robes.

Numerous awards were also given out:

Assistant Professor of Secondary Education Dr. Gregory Samuels was named University Scholar.



Dr. Lonnie Edwards speaking at Founder's Day. Photo by University Marketing and Communications

Associate Professor of Secondary Education Dr. Jennifer Alexiou-Ray received the Faculty Service Award

Adjunct Theatre Professor Amy Murphy won the Adjunct Faculty Teaching Award

Ms. Donna Murphy, Front of the House Supervisor for Falcon Foods and Chartwells, was presented the UMNAA's Outstanding Staff Service Award.

Professor of History Dr. Jim Day received the UMNAA's Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award.

Kit Waters received the Mary Lou Elder Williams Alumna Loyalty Award from the UMNAA.

This year's Founders' Day committee was chaired Marion Brown, UM's director of University Events, and Tiffany Bunt, UM's director of alumni affairs, was the cochair.

Following the ceremony, lunch was served in Anna Irvin Dining Hall and the day concluded with the 22nd annual Life Raft Debate

Day receives 2019 Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award

COURTESY UM MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

During celebration of the 123rd Founders' Day the University of Montevallo recognized deserving faculty, staff and alumni.

On Oct. 10 the University of Montevallo's National Alumni Association recognized Dr. Jim Day, professor of history, with the Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award for 2019. He has over 30 years of collegiate teaching experience and 22 years of that he has spent at UM.

Day began his academic career at the United States Military Academy in 1979, where he received a degree in engineering with a minor in history. He then went on to serve 16 years in the US Army, before retiring as the executive officer of a 682-man infantry battalion.

Day then began teaching at UM in 1997 as he continued his education and received a Ph.D. in history from Auburn University in 2002.

His time at UM has seen him move through various administrative and academic roles. These positions ranged from professor of history to vice president of academic affairs included a short time in which he served as the chair of the Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences from 2007 to 2010.

He has also previously served as the assistant vice president for academic affairs at UM and is currently the faculty advisor for the University of Montevallo's Campus Veterans Association.

Day's colleagues have noted that his commitment to improving the academic experience of students extends beyond being a subject matter expert as he is constantly dedicated to improving the lives of students in and out of his own classroom.

Many programs and facilities that many UM students rely on today are due to his efforts during his time in administrative roles. During his time at UM he has been involved in the purchasing of advanced software and lab equipment as well as assisting with the momentUM program.

As chair of BSS, Day worked with his colleagues to help them develop experiences for UM students that focused on utilizing the unique opportunities available to them at the University.

"His dedication to students, commitment to teaching and administrative experience seasoned by his innovative and collaborative approach makes him the ideal candidate." said Dr. Tammi S. Dahle, dean of students, "It is without hesitation that I support his nomination."

In 2018 Day was recognized by the Birmingham Business Journal as a Veteran of Influence. The award recognized veterans based on their contributions to their workplace, a track record of innovation as well as their leadership and engagement with their community.

Earlier that year he was also awarded the Michael J. Grainger Endowed Professorship in Modern History and will continue to serve in this position, the first of its kind, until 2021.

"Jim has the unique ability to connect events in our nation's past, and apply their consequences, current national events," said Michael J. Grainger when asked about Day in 2018.

However, Day is also active in his community and was the president of the Leadership Shelby County Alumni Board from 2013-2015 and has been an active member of the.

"His accomplishments inside the classroom are varied and impressive. His teaching outside the classroom is, as well," said Carol Bruser, Coordinator of Leadership Shelby County, going on to note that, "under his progressive leadership, the Alumni Board saw much success."

Donna Murphy awarded 2019 outstanding staff member award

By CALEB JONES



Donna Murphy receives the 2019 Outstanding Staff Service Award. Photo by Kat Bell

The University of Montevallo National Alumni Association recently awarded Donna Murphy the 2019 Outstanding Staff Service Award, which they presented to her on the 123rd Founder's Day.

As a staff member in the University's Anna Irvin Dining Hall for 37 years, Murphy has seen Montevallo change often, whether it be the companies over the caf, the many different staff members over the years or the faces of students who she's seen come and go over the years.

"I'm just enjoying the trip," said Murphy.

Murphy, whom students often refer to affectionately as Ms. Donna, was born and raised right here in Montevallo.

She grew up as one of 13 children. Interesting enough, among those 13 children were 3 different sets of twins, Murphy herself being one of those twins.

She remembers that from a young age, her parents taught her and her siblings to always watch out for each other.

"Our parents told us love one another, take care of one another, because if you don't then you won't have anyone else that you can turn to," said Murphy.

This philosophy of caring for others is something Murphy carries with her to this day, and exemplifies daily at UM.

"You've got to be able to make sure that you can help somebody out because you'll never know when you need to be helped out."

Murphy has always showed a degree of care and love for the students who have come through UM.

"You see students that really care that they know their abilities and being here, and what they're here for, then you got some you got to lead on, and be a parent to them, because it might be their first time leaving home, or they're the only child and they're afraid," said Murphy. "But then once they get to know you and get used to you, they'll see that it's [UM], just like home."

The students love her as well. Senior Terrance Boykin stated, " Ms. Donna is the most caring and dedicated person I've met! She loves not only her job but us as students and the University as well."

Senior Taylor Chatman says she's happy to see Ms. Donna. " She lights up the room and I am happy to have known her my four years at UM!"

Murphy says one of the best things about her career at UM has been seeing students move on and be successful.

"For these last 37 years I know not only me, but a lot of my coworkers that have been here a long time have seen people come and go but we've seen them elevate into being able to transition into their field they're going into as teachers, lawyers, doctors and everything and have gotten their degrees and moved on."

Murphy says they visit often though.

"They never forget home. They always come back to the University of Montevallo, where they put their time and talent in to get their start."

Murphy has been through a lot during her lifetime. She tragically lost her own two children Tomeka and Joshua in a house fire in 2001, and in the span of 7 years lost four brothers and her mother-in-law. But through her faith in God and sense of purpose, she stays strong.

"Like I said, when you don't have people that are real close to you, and you do find kids that call you mom and need your help it's a thing that you have to do, so I have to continue to be the person that people can come and talk to and do things for, and I thank God for that."

This day in history: The crook at UM

By JOSIE SHAW

With 2019's Founder's Day theme being "A great institution is born of its time," it's important to understand where the Crook tradition comes from and see how students adapted it from what it was.

Montevallo's current Crook tradition stems from the annual "Crook Week," which ended in 1991. The purpose behind the week would be a way for current seniors to pass off seniority to younger students through hazing and trials of embarrassment.

Contrary to the current annual date of when the crook is hidden, Senior March Night would be chosen randomly throughout the year to keep underclassmen on edge. The Seniors would prompt the week by secretly electing a "Senior March Queen," who not only hides the traditional Crook stick, but also organizes when the hazing happens.

The hazing would initiate by a chiming of bells playing throughout campus while the upperclassmen, dressed in all black, would bang on the doors of residence halls to pull the freshman out of their sleep. The seniors would proceed to march the underclassmen to Bibb Graves. This is where the hazing would occur, students were mocked and forced to make the sounds of sizzling bacon, live through the actions of a dead cockroach and humiliated by being covered in syrup and flour.

Other than the obvious reasons, a lot of the controversy from the '30s came from seniors choosing specific juniors to pass seniority to through a loss of identity. These few days of misery were supposed to excite the juniors to pass the pain the following year.

Without having alumni to help regulate the activities, students could easily fall to peer pressure, causing intense situations to rise.

While the students slowly began to see the wrong of the senior and junior relationship, the situation didn't fully progress until the University intervened and stopped the tradition of hazing in the late '90s.

Currently the Founder's Day board comes up with the clues and decides the hidden location of the stick. The Crook is released in the week before Founder's Day, and the students that find the Crook sketch their names into the wood.

On Founder's Day, the seniors now march into Palmer Auditorium where family and friends cheer them for their academic work. Founders Day events are now transformed into honoring the students rather than harming and putting down underclassmen.

Life Raft lives on

By JAMIE BROWDER



As the Life Raft Debate celebrates its 22nd anniversary, it's with a sigh of relief. The tradition, founded by Dr. Michael Patton, professor of english and philosophy, was in danger of being cut this year after it was announced that he would be gone on medical leave for the entire semester.

Much of the effort that has gone into keeping the debate alive was weighted heavily in respect for the tradition that Dr. Patton created.

In his absence, Andrea K Eckelman, associate professor of political science, Dr. Amiee Mellon, assistant professor of marketing, Dr. Scott Varagona, associate professor of mathematics and Dr. Brent Forrester, associate professor of english, came together as a committee to ensure that the event went on.

"The Life Raft Debate is Dr. Patton's baby. He is the one who's been in charge of it for 21 years. There was concern of who had the time or the knowledge to be able to pick it up and help with it," said Dr. Mellon.

Putting together the Life Raft Debate was a big task for Mellon and others to take on, simply based on the amount of detail that goes into the event itself that goes with setting up prevents, a voting system, communication and social media.

The committee also had trouble with finding a fourth person and finding someone to play Devil's Advocate. However, they eventually found people to fill all of the roles needed.

"Dr. Patton put so much work and effort into this, I think a lot of us that are his friends and colleagues wanted to make sure that it continues to happen even if he wasn't there to do it," said Dr. Eckelman.

Dr. Varagona was one of those people who answered the call and agreed to emcee the event. Varagona had originally planned planned this year off after being a part of the event for six consecutive years. However, ultimately, he decided that he wanted to help make sure the tradition did not die.

"I agreed definitely out of love for the event and I wanted to help out in a difficult time. Keeping the tradition going, for at least a few more years was important to me," said Dr. Varagona.

Dr. Varagona is hoping that the event will keep its momentum to reach its 25th anniversary.

"As long as there are individuals willing to go out and attempt to get on that life raft, there will be room for it. I don't think anyone wanted to see it fail," said Dr. Mellon.

The event, which was originally created by Dr. Patton, has had recognition from both NPR and other universities who have taken on hosting a life raft debate of their own.

OCTOBER **2019**

ATHLETICS SCHEDULE

MON 14

North Georgia Invitational (Women's golf)
Dahlonega, GA

TUE 15

North Georgia Invitational (Women's Golf)
Dahlonega, GA

THU 17

7:00 PM **Auburn-Montgomery (Women's Soccer)**
Montgomery, AL

FRI 18

GSC-SSC Challenge (Volleyball)
Hoover, AL

Blazer Classic (Women's Cross Country)
Montevallo, AL

7:00 PM **Auburn-Montgomery (Women's Soccer)**
Montgomery, AL

SAT 19

GSC-SSC Challenge (Volleyball)
Hoover, AL

GSC-SSC Challenge (Volleyball)
Hoover, AL

MON 21

West Georgia Invitational (Men's Golf)
Carrollton, GA

TUE 22

West Georgia Invitational (Men's Golf)
Carrollton, GA

6:00 PM **Lee (Volleyball)**
Montevallo, AL

FRI 25

5:00 PM **Lee (Women's Soccer)**
Montevallo, AL

6:00 PM **West Alabama (Volleyball)**
Montevallo, AL

7:30 PM **West Alabama (Volleyball)**
Montevallo, AL

9:00 AM **Sewanee Invitational (Women's Swimming)**
Sewanee, TN

6:00 PM **Sewanee Invitational (Men's Swimming)**
Sewanee, TN

SAT 12

2:00 PM **Mississippi College (Volleyball)**
Montevallo, AL

GSC Championship (Women's Cross Country)
Montevallo, AL

GSC Championship (Men's Cross Country)
Montevallo, AL

9:00 AM **Sewanee Invitational (Women's Swimming)**
Sewanee, TN

6:00 PM **Sewanee Invitational (Men's Swimming)**
Sewanee, TN

SUN 6

1:00 PM **Shorter (Women's Soccer)**
Montevallo, AL

3:30 PM **Shorter (Men's Soccer)**
Montevallo, AL

The Good Good Boys of Podcasting

By KATY BARNES

Up until recently, podcasts haven't been as popular as other kinds of media. It's seen as an educational tool, something too long and too dry to be enjoyable. Recently public opinion has been swayed however, and podcasts have been catapulted into popular culture. There are conventions for podcasts, and people love talking about their favorite shows to listen to. One of the main reasons that podcasting has become popular is thanks to the McElroy Brothers.

The McElroy Brothers are a team consisting of Justin, Travis and Griffin McElroy; brothers from Huntington, WV who were just looking for a way to stay in touch after the younger two left home for college. Out of this need, the podcast "My Brother, My Brother and Me" was born.

"My Brother, My Brother and Me" (usually abbreviated as MBMBAM) is advertised as an advice show for the "Modjern" age as Justin puts it, and through their show they give advice that varies in quality. The podcast also includes segments such as "Farm Wisdom" or "Munch Squad" where they do more than give advice, they simply riff with each other.

The show is less about the advice given and more about the conversations inspired by said questions – at its core MBMBAM is a comedy show and their advice isn't supposed to be taken. Rarely do they give realistic advice, instead choosing to spawn in-jokes with one another like the real brothers that they are.

The idea of the boys being real brothers is one of the major draws to MBMBAM and to the McElroys in general. From the beginning of each episode, they introduce themselves as if the listener is their sibling. Along with their name, they say their "Your Oldest/Middlest/Sweet Baby Brother" and this kind of inclusivity is what many love about the McElroys.

Their goal is to make sure everyone has a space to exist away from the stressful things in the real world. This doesn't mean that they avoid real world issues, however. For example, the McElroy's don't just ignore politics – in fact they are actually aware of how privileged they are. One of the best examples of this is their second most popular show, called "The Adventure Zone".

"The Adventure Zone" is an actual play podcast they play with their dad – the premise is one person leads the game and the rest play it. The first season of the show was called Balance, and it used Dungeons and Dragons as its main system. The second season was called Amnesty, and it was played using the Monster of the Week system of RPGs.

In both seasons, the McElroy boys use the medium of podcast to their advantage to make their characters more diverse than they are. The McElroy's are straight, cisgender, white men but the characters they play are characters of all different races, genders, ethnicities and more. They listen to fans responses to their characters and develop them from there.

One notable instance is with the characters of Slone and Hurley. In an attempt to add diversity to the podcast, they were made lesbians. Unfortunately, the podcast strays into the bury your gays trope, and this didn't sit well with many fans. The McElroy brothers acknowledged their lapse in knowledge and in the future, they gave their gay characters happier endings.

The McElroy's have proven they're willing to listen and that makes many LGBTQ+ fans feel comfortable to correct their actions and they feel seen. This is the McElroy's best trait – at the end of the day, they just want people to feel loved.

Other podcasts the brothers have been involved in are "Sawbones," "Shmanners" and "Wonderful," all dedicated to making the world better through education and love. These boys have talked about the hardships they've suffered and they just want to make the world better.

By listening to others and promoting inclusivity, they are cultivating a culture that wants to build each other up, which is something we sorely could use more of in this "modjern" era.

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REANNA'S REALITY CHECK

By REANNA PIPES
LIFESTYLES COLUMNIST

Dear Reanna,

I've been at my current job for over a year. At that job, I work with a close friend. We even used to live in an apartment together. Working with her has never been a problem until now.

I was recently transferred to the same section of the store as her, which has begun to cause problems. My friend, who is not a manager, has started telling me to do things around the store that aren't a part of my job. Sometimes she tells me that our manager told her to tell me in hopes to get me to do things that I'm not supposed to at work. She then gets frustrated at me for not doing what she asked me to.

I don't know how to deal with her being so aggressive and bossy all of the sudden. Not only is this affecting how much I enjoy my job, which I used to love, but our friendship as well. This isn't a problem that I can avoid because we see each other outside of work all of the time, which makes things even worse.

I kind of just want to quit my job and avoid any possible confrontation with her, as that's something that is difficult for me. Do you have any suggestions on how to handle this?

Sincerely,
So Over It Salesperson

Dear So Over It,

People typically separate their work friends from their non-work friends which can make things tricky when someone is both. I understand not wanting to confront your friend in any way, but confrontation does not always have to be bad.

First, I recommend sitting down and talking with your friend about the situation. Meet with her outside of work since that is where the problem is. Have some coffee or grab lunch and let her know how you are feeling. Calmly let her know what has been bothering you and try to find a solution.

I know the idea of making things worse or her getting angry with you is scary, but a little communication can go a long way. Even if she chooses not to listen or things do not change, you at least were honest with her and did your best to resolve the issue.

Because it is affecting the way you work, you may also need to bring the situation to your manager's attention if talking to your friend does not work. You do not want to get in trouble for doing something she told you to do under the assumption that your manager wanted you to.

If your coworker continues to cause problems at work then your manager will do their job and take measures to fix the issue. That is their job after all as they do not want it to cause problems for the store. You may feel bad for reporting the problem, but it is a quick way to have it resolved.

Quitting your job just because you are frustrated with your friend as a coworker is not the answer. You said you love your job and once everything gets sorted out, I am sure you will love it again. It may be hard now but hopefully, everything will work out both with your friend and with your job.

If you would like to submit your problem, email alabamian@montevallo.edu.

****Disclaimer*

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Submit your questions to *alabamian@montevallo.edu* for a chance to be featured in our next issue!

Officer of the year

By JAMIE BROWDER



Officer JaRon Thomas, the UMPD Officer of the year.

Officer JaRon Thomas was named UM's officer of the year at the Shelby County Chamber of Commerce Awards Luncheon on Sept. 25.

"It's a great accomplishment, being that I was chosen by my boss and my peers. It meant a whole lot for me to carry the torch of officer of the year for such a great university and a great place to work," said Thomas.

UMPD's chief of police, Timothy Alexander, nominated Officer Thomas for the recognition.

"As Chief of Police it is a very rewarding feeling when students stop to tell you about their great interactions with police officers. It lets me know that we are working to meet the needs of our UM Community. Officer Thomas has earned the respect of the faculty, staff and students," Chief Alexander stated.

During his 11 years as a police officer for Pickens County, the City of Montevallo and UM, Officer Thomas has remained passionate about law enforcement. He received his bachelor's degree in criminal justice at Auburn University Montgomery.

His marriage is what originally brought him to work as an officer for the City of Montevallo, and his drive to provide for his children's education guided him to UM.

Thomas takes his role as a law enforcement officer especially serious because he hopes to shape how people view police officers in general.

"There's so much negative stuff going on with law enforcement being in the news and social media. I just try to do my part in making sure with each individual contact that I have with everyone is the best contact they'll ever have with law enforcement," Thomas expressed.

His typical day begins at 6 p.m. and ends at 6 a.m., and according to Alexander, students notice when Thomas isn't around.

"Soon after he moved to night-shift, I started receiving calls inquiring about his whereabouts because he was not seen during the day," shared Alexander. "When I would ask callers if anything was wrong or is there anything, they needed the answer would be 'no, we just noticed he has not come by to check on us.'"

The general well-being and safety of students is something that Thomas holds highly, especially viewing a student's college experience through the eyes of a college parent.

"It means a whole lot. I know when I went to college, and then again when my two sons went to college, I felt kind of worried about the type of area and safety that they were going to be in."

He wants students to know that he and the entirety of UMPD are open to being there and helping students.

"We're going to keep striving to get better as a department, and I'm going to keep striving to grow as a law enforcement officer," Thomas expressed. "I'm here for the long run, whatever they need, I'm here for them."

Thomas is looking forward to promotions and a long future with UM.

SGA sentate meeting recap



New SGA senators being sworn in during senate meeting. Photo by Harrison Neville

By HARRISON NEVILLE
SGA COLUMIST

The SGA senate held a quick meeting on Wednesday Sept. 25, which lasted approximately 6 minutes. The meeting started up with executive officer reports, in which Olivia Eldridge reminded everyone that the parking lot behind the business building would be closed starting on Sept. 28, there was a temporary lot set up behind Myrick in the grass for commuter students.

There was then a brief stream of announcements reminding the senators that the election results for freshman forum would be announced later that evening.

The senate's next meeting was held on Wednesday, Oct. 2. There were no reports or legislation covered in the meeting, but the Senate did swear in five new senators. Jase Goodson was sworn in as the new education senator, Torian Blackburn as the business senator, and Cody Hodge, Abbie Clark, and Josie Shaw as freshman senators.

After the induction, the meeting moved on to announcements. The SGA will be holding a townhall open to all students on Oct. 23 from 6 to 8 p.m. It was noted that there had been some confusion involving the temporary parking lot behind Myrick because the lines were painted white. Many students thought that they were not meant to be accessible to commuters.

The Subway on Main Street recently shut its doors due to it's management not paying taxes. The closure came as a surprise to both the SGA and the University. Eldridge stated that she would be meeting with the University's VP of business affairs, Mary Ellen Heuton, to discuss the plan going forward since this is one less business for students to be able to spend their Falcon Flex at.

Orientation leader applications are available on Falconlink and due Oct. 30.

5 Fall Activities to do on a budget

By ARIEL HALL

While the weather outside has been incredibly hot, it's October now and that means that autumn is in full swing. Other seasons are great, with winter being full of holiday cheer, and summer meaning quality time at the beach. However, there are some activities that you can enjoy only in the months of September through November, because there's nothing quite like fall.

Roam a pumpkin patch

My favorite holiday is Halloween and nothing says Halloween like taking a trip to a pumpkin patch. It's reminiscent of a classic tradition we loved as kids. Make a trip of it and getting a group of friends together to pick out the perfect gourds. You can even have a carving party afterwards to celebrate the coming of a new season. Carving pumpkins with some fall treats can be an exciting new way to bond with friends.

There are several pumpkin patches in the area. For anyone looking for that perfect pumpkin, check out the patch at the First Presbyterian Church of Alabaster down the road from campus or the Helena Hollow farm.

Have a movie night

One of the best parts about Halloween as a kid beside the candy stash, was scaring yourself silly with movies about implausible scenarios like killer clowns in the sewer system. What other way get into the spooky spirit than to watch some of your favorite movies? For those who hate horror movies, there are much less nightmare-inducing movies to enjoy.

Get your favorite movies or browse Netflix for some you haven't seen. Just don't forget the popcorn!

Go to a haunted house

Once you come to Montevallo, hearing ghost stories happens year-round, but another fun way to get spooked this season is to go to a haunted house. Several haunted houses in the area, from Birmingham and Alabaster, will be open all October.

However, if you want to stay more local, the staff of The Alabamian and the Carmichael Library here at UM team up to hold an annual tour of Montevallo's most haunted buildings, known as Ghost Walk. It will be held Saturday, Oct. 26 and will feature ghost stories unique to Montevallo.

Go on a hayride or get lost in a corn maze.

Many places that offer pumpkin patches also offer hayrides. Hayrides are a great option for those who don't enjoy haunted attractions. They allow you to take in the beautiful fall weather and scenery. They are a great option for an activity with the whole family too as they sometimes also offer an assortment of games and pumpkin decorating options.

Likewise, corn mazes also allow us to get a taste of the autumn air. When farmers finish harvesting their corn, it turns brown and dies. With a little work, it can become a corn maze where you and your friends can channel each other to get to the other side.

Host or attend a Friends-giving

When October comes to an end and people start preparing for the holiday season, remember that the holiday season isn't restricted to time with just your family. The Thanksgiving holiday is all about tradition, but it's okay to make new traditions.

The idea of Friends-giving is to spend it with your best buds, so gather everyone around a table and enjoy the potluck style party. It's totally ideal for people with different dietary restrictions or dish desires. Got to have the cranberry sauce or want to add a totally new dish? The world is your oyster.

These are just a few fall activities that you and your wallet will enjoy. Put on your most comfortable sweater and celebrate the end of midterms this fall because before you know it, it'll be over.

Dueling Opinions: Mario Kart

By ARIEL HALL AND KATY BARNES



One of Nintendo's most anticipated games was finally released. Mario Kart Tour brings joy to smart phones everywhere, or so it seems.

As this app is not Nintendo's first attempt to crack the market of mobile gaming, it was not surprising to me that Mario Kart Tour was a bit of a letdown.

In this adaption of the Mario Kart franchise, instead of the familiarity of mashing the "A button to accelerate, the app allows it to be automatic. The player merely guides their kart with their thumb. The touchscreen controls don't fit such a frantic racing experience, nor does the game control well with combining the driving and steering mechanics.

One of the more enjoyable features of Mario Kart Tour is collecting items. The paranoia of racing returns as the player is at risk for a turtle shell ruining a perfect drive. The game itself is even more item-dominated than other versions of the game; characters can pick up three items at once and may activate said items in a frenzy.

The real draw of this game to me is the pay-to-play system. Players gain points based on where they place in the game. Points unlock stars, which unlocks more cups. Players can also earn coins to buy more drivers and karts.

This is a good system, but it limits players because there's a limit to how much can be earned each day. Rubies, the in-game currency, are rarely awarded for completing challenges and cups. The game forces them to purchase rubies to continue earning rewards, which makes the free to play format void.

Nintendo charges five rubies to fire off the pipe and unlock new contents. Need more rubies? Three costs $1.99, or if you want to splurge and get 135 rubies, you'll pay $69.99. The monetization system feels like a loot box. You never know what you're going to get; are you going to get what you've been hoping for or are you going to feel like you got another pair of socks on Christmas morning?

Despite the flaws in Nintendo's new attempt in mobile gaming, Mario Kart Tour offers an enjoyable experience for a while. However, here's my verdict: While it may be fun for a few hours, the game doesn't offer anything new, and it's not worth the effort unless some updates are made. I would rather save five dollars a month and go buy Mario Kart on the Switch, no rubies required.

KATY BARNES

Ever since Nintendo started releasing apps for smartphones, people have been clamoring for a Mario Kart app. One of the more competitive games offered by Nintendo, it seemed perfect for the mobile medium and finally in September, Nintendo released the long awaited Mario Kart Tour. Is it worth the download though?

Short answer: yes.

Mario Kart Tour is comprised of 16 different cups, and within the cup are a mix of six different racetracks. Each racetrack still manages to be different though, adding ramps and extra challenges the further you get within the cup. This makes sure that the player stays engaged throughout the game.

Like most Nintendo games, Mario Kart is not Pay-to-Play, meaning that purchases are not necessary to play the game. This makes it different from most games of equal quality – usually you would be paying at least $1.99 for the quality of a professional game, and yet Nintendo forgoes this pay wall, allowing everyone access to the game.

If you want more perks, however, you can choose to buy the Gold Pass, which allows you double the rewards. This allows people to play both for fun and competitively.

One of my biggest complaints with the app is the lack of a multiplayer feature. Currently Nintendo plans to release Multiplayer in a future update – again, keeping in line with past practices of slowly releasing features to retain usership. Currently, however, the most interaction you can have with your friends is through leadership boards.

Personally, I think the leadership boards are a brilliant way to handle multiplayer – this way you don't have to wait for your friend to log on and then battle crappy wifi and glitchy screens. Instead, the leader board gives you a goal to beat.

Overall, Mario Kart is a fun game. I love playing it with my friends and despite "completing" the first tour, I've found there's still plenty to play. If you love Nintendo, race cars or beating your friends then I promise there's something in this app for you.

Tis the (cuffing) season

By REANNA PIPES

As you move through fall and winter, you might notice another type of season surrounding you: cuffing season. If you have never heard of cuffing season it is still likely that you have seen it and maybe even participated unknowingly.

To put it simply, cuffing season is a certain time of the year when individuals who might normally stay single or play the field find themselves wanting to be paired up or "cuffed." While the name of the phenomenon may not be as wildly known, it definitely still happens all over.

Just because you ended up in a relationship during cuffing season, it does not mean that you are being cuffed and your relationship is doomed by the end of March. Fulfilling and meaningful relationships can start at any point in time, but the change in season definitely comes into play for some people.

With the days getting shorter and weather getting colder, singles start to feel lonely and may not go out with friends as much. This causes them to be cuffed. Perhaps they are more eager to talk to that average looking girl that sits next to them in class or decides to meet up with a Tinder match a little quicker than normal. Regardless, people try a little harder to end up with someone this time of the year.

While yes, the lonely holiday months play into cuffing season, so does the questions almost everyone has heard at a family gathering. You know the ones. "Are you dating anyone yet?" "Any cute boys back at school?" "Let me guess, you're still single?" That last one is always asked in a demeaning tone as if there is something wrong with being single and instead focusing on yourself and your education.

Cuffing season generally begins around the holiday season. November is typically when it starts up, but some early cuffers will begin their search to have a partner by Halloween. This gives them someone to mention at Thanksgiving when nosy relatives question your dating life and potentially bring them home for Christmas to please your parents. By the time Valentine's Day rolls around, you know your partner well enough to pick out a meaningful gift.

It is called a season for a reason. The end of cuffing season comes with the end of winter, but that does not necessarily mean that the relationship ends. Many cuffed couples will become uncuffed as the weather heats up, but plenty of cuffed couples will stand the test of time.

People who are self-labeled "romantics" may look down on cuffing as desperate or lazy, I do not think it should be labeled a bad thing. Cuffing season is a good way for someone to ease into or broaden their comfort zone when it comes to dating. It is tough to meet someone out there. We live in a world of quick flings and hookups where it can often be hard to find yourself in a long-term and enjoyable relationship. Cuffing just makes things a little easier.

While the name of the phenomenon may not be as wildly known, it definitely still happens all over.

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NEWS *in* BRIEF

By WESLEY HYDE

Paralyzed man regains the ability to walk again through an exoskeleton

After an accident that left him paralyzed from the shoulders down, a man from Lyon France simply known as Thibault spent two years in a program by the University of Grenoble, the Clinitec research center, and the CEA, who's aim is to allow those who have been paralyzed to regain their mobility. After surgically placing two electrode covered implants between his brain and skin to record Thibault's brain activity, researchers had him practice by controlling a video game avatar using only his thoughts for months. In early October, researchers announced that an experimental exoskeleton, though confined to one room had been successfully controlled allowing Thibault to walk again. The researchers say they have found four new patients and will begin testing less restricted suits.

"Joker" releases to grand box office success

Oct. 4 Warner Brothers published film the "Joker", directed by Todd Phillips, released in theaters across the U.S. among controversy and critic backlash. The controversy stems in part from the movie's R rating, as well as it being a far more violent dark depiction of the character than that of prior films such as "The Dark Knight" in 2008 and "Suicide Squad" in 2017.

Theaters across the U.S. heightened security around the release after military and police notified media outlets who sent out warnings of potential threats to movie goers and staff. This also occurred following a letter being sent to Warner Brothers by relatives of victims of the shooting which occurred at a theater in Aroura Colorado during the premier of 2012's "The Dark Knight Rises". But despite controversy, "Joker" has surpassed $13 million dollars in its first night making it the highest grossing October premier which was previously held by "Venom" in 2018, which earned roughly $10 million during its premier.

Ocean Cleanup Project's new device successfully collects plastics

On Oct. 2, the Netherlands based organization Ocean Cleanup reported that their newly tested oceanic cleanup device successfully collected a large amount of plastic.

The device they deployed was a roughly 2000 feet net, that using parachute like structures propels itself using the wind and other natural forces while it collects the garbage floating in the ocean, and eventually bring it all back to land to be recycled. The plastic waste that was gathered ranged from large industrial fishing nets, car tires and microplastics the size of 1 millimeter. This design was initially presented all the way back in 2012 by its creator Boyan Slat.

Their official website states that they are now working on an updated model called System 002, so the system can operate longer before needing to be brought back in.



By PEYTON LANG

Aries ♈ The sun is in Libra which leaves right now the perfect time to focus on your relationships, Aries! Take that first step and clear the air where it's needed. Be thoughtful with your actions towards others. It will make things much easier on you and your peers.

Taurus ♉ Take it slow this week, Taurus. While big plans are fun, it's likely that there's going to be some obstacles this week. Just do what you can and in a day or so you'll be up and running again in no time! If you're feeling overwhelmed, it's okay to lighten up your schedule.

Gemini ♊ Let go of the things that aren't working anymore! It might be hard at first, but think about how you're going to feel after that weight is off your shoulders. Do some self care this week and prepare for an exciting weekend!

Cancer ♋ A romantic encounter is in sight for you, Cancer! This weekend brings opportunity for fun and some good lovin' if you'll let it. It might be worth it.

Leo ♌ Family or problems with loved ones back at home can be a tricky thing to handle. The much harmonious Venus is on your side to help smooth things over. Communicate and do your best to understand an outsiders perspective. It'll be helpful for your relationships.

Virgo ♍ Stay a step ahead with those finances, Virgo. Having the monetary resources to do what you want will help you greatly. You might have an encounter soon with someone who will inspire you! Let the ideas spark and make it happen!

Libra ♎ It's your time, Libra! Treat yo'self. Invest in YOU. Self care isn't always beauty. It's your mental health, your relationships, your home. Do the maintenance needed to foster positivity in those areas and you will be feeling great!

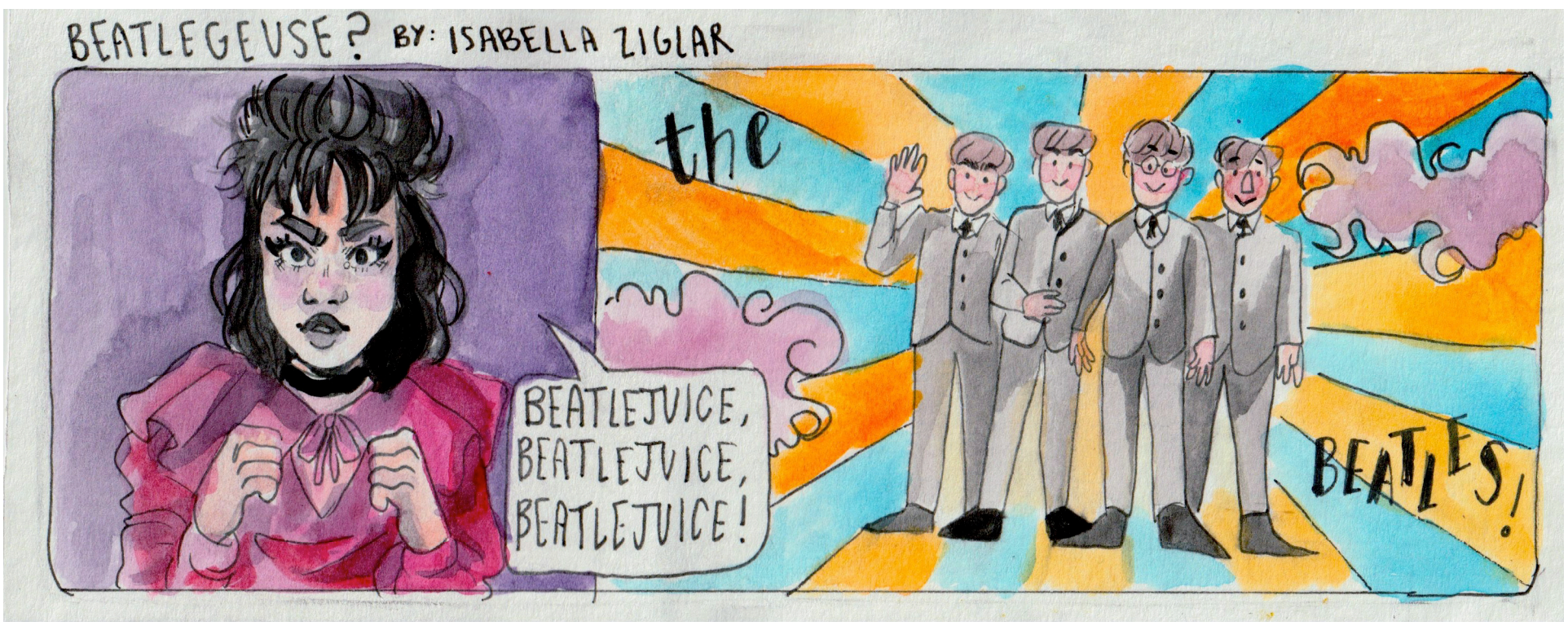
Scorpio ♏ It's not always easy to move on, but it's time to put those negative feelings aside once and for all. Past issues and people that might have made you feel upset are on the front lines and it's time to deal with them even if it means talking face-to-face. The healing that comes with this can make it worth the work!

Sagittarius ♐ You're a little butterfly this week! Socialize, go out, be with the people who are going to make you happy! You might try to hold off because of expenses, and that's okay. Just know money comes and goes, but memories last a lifetime. Go have fun!

Aquarius ♒ Don't let self-doubt hold you back this week. I know, easier said than done. But, rather than holding on to what you can't do, use your strengths to move beyond your weaknesses. You have plenty of wonderful qualities and those will come to an advantage for you soon.

Pisces ♓ While the process of letting go of people or situations that have been a part of your life for some while can be hard, it's so necessary. Especially for you right now, Pisces! Let go of what no longer serves you. If your senses say that it's time, then it's time. This will allow space for new opportunities for you.

Capricorn ♑ Of course, we are out here trying to thrive this week, Capricorn. Once again, work is a big focus this week! Use this week as an opportunity to market yourself. Brush up on that dusty old resume and make a good impression. Promote positive relationships with those who can assist you in the future.





Spotify PLAYLIST

By The ALABAMIAN STAFF

MIDTERM BOPS

"Stronger" by Kanye West

This song makes me feel invincible. If I could do cartwheels, I would do them to this song. For hours. While I don't really like many other songs by Kanye, this one is an old and good one.

"High Hopes" by Panic at the Disco

When you've got high hopes for passing your midterms, this is the song to throw on. As Brendan Urie sings about his success, maybe some of it will rub off on you. No harm in trying anyway.

"Pokémon Theme" by Jason Paige

Midterms might make you feel like you're drained, but when you're listening to this song it's easy to become the greatest like no one ever was. Let this song lead you to victory because if Ash can win a Pokémon League, you can pass your midterm.

"Shake it off" by Taylor Swift

Swift's anthem is the perfect way to walk out of an exam. Just shake it off, because it's better to just not worry about the results until they're in

"Determinate" by Lemonade Mouth

This is more of a song for after midterms, when you feel like you failed all of them and you just want to cry. Instead, you should go de-stress and have fun! You're halfway to finals – gotta use this time to relax now.

"We Are the Champions" by Queen

Once you've made it to the other side of exam week, let this classic song help you celebrate. Celebrate the week being over and take a deep breath before you have to get ready to hunker down the second half of the semester.

THE ALABAMIAN AND UM'S OFFICE
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GHOST WALK



OCT. 26

Tours start at 6 p.m. at Palmer Hall
Final tour departs at 8:30 p.m.
FREE for all ages!

TRUNK OR TREAT

Presented by Future Alumni of Montevallo (FAM)

6-8:30 p.m.
Carmichael Library parking lot

Popcorn and drinks available for purchase

LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

5:30-8:30 p.m.
Carmichael Library ground floor

Coloring sheets and craft projects for kids.

A short video of Frankenstein film adaptations over the years starting at 5:30 p.m.

Learn the real history of our ghost stories with University archivist Carey Heatherly.

Learn about disability-related accommodations at montevallo.edu/disabilityaccess.

The Alabamian
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Students participate in Carnival for a Cause

By JOSIE SHAW

The University of Montevallo Student Government Association's Carnival for a Cause was held at Main Quad on Oct. 11.

Tickets were sold at the event for 10 cents each, and the profit from each ticket went to the philanthropy of SGA's choice, this year the organization chose the Student Emergency Fund.

The University of Montevallo's student emergency fund is made to help students when they are in crisis, including helping with the price of tuition and books when needed.

"This year we wanted to have bigger games to motivate people to come out and support, as well as having things for all ages," stated SGA's Anakate Andrasko, a sophomore communication studies major.

"My job for this event was to take care of orchestrating the events, setting up booths and assigning workers to all the different roles."

Many different events and games were set up throughout Main Quad including an obstacle course, corn hole, a dunk tank and more. Carnival games were not the only way SGA raised money; they also sold food and drinks like popcorn and cotton candy.

The event also included other games that were purposely made to be creative and different than the typical, like a game of tug-of-war while slamming basketballs in hoops.

Various student organizations participated in the event. For example, Phi Gamma Delta's "Pie a FI(JI) Guy" booth. FIJI's Pledge Educator, Christopher Fendly, a senior social work major, took care of some of the work behind the booth.

"One of our five values is service, so it's very important that we go out and serve our community in any way we can," he said.

Alpha Gamma Delta's donut ring toss was a highlight of the c carnival, drawing in interest from not just game players, but hungry students and families.

"We just want to be able to engage with everyone on campus, because we are promoting being leaders and helping the community, and we know this is going towards the emergency fund," Alpha Gam's Lizeth Lopez Ramirez, a senior exercise and nutrition science major, shared.

SGA's next WOW Weekend event will take place on Nov. 8 and 9, 2019, and will feature a Friendsgiving celebration on Nov. 8 and tailgating event on Nov. 9.



Abby Bowers and Kayla Twilley at the face painting booth. Photo by Ariel Hall.

History department holds Antique Roadshow

By CALEB JONES, News editor



Associate professor of history John Bawden holds up a Roman denarius, which dates back to the reign of Emperor Hadrian.

On Oct. 23, the University of Montevallo History Department held Antiques Roadshow Montevallo in the J.A. Brown Room of Carmichael Library.

Organized by associate professor of history John Bawden, the event was modeled after the popular PBS program "Antiques Roadshow" in which specialists from auction houses and dealers across the country come to offer free appraisals of antiques and other rare items, offering insight into their historical origins.

"It's a fun opportunity for people to talk about objects that are precious to their families, and to find out what their worth," stated Bawden.

Bawden said the history department thought it would be interesting to replicate the show.

"The history program wanted to put on a fun event. That's the basic idea. We're not reinventing the wheel right; this is something we've seen on television. So, it's the same idea, we're inviting the campus to bring rare items, we're gonna have the University archivist bring out rare items from the archives."

Bawden brought many different items to the show, as well as the University's archivist Carey Heatherly and other faculty and staff members.

Though the event was open to everyone, it was geared mainly towards history majors, who with research tools provided by Bawden, were tasked with appraising items themselves before getting confirmation from Heatherly.

Librarian Kathy Lowe brought in items as well, such as a hand carved wooden statue from Senegal and her father's radio from around the 1930s-40s. Lowe remembers sitting around the radio with as a child with her family and being able to tune into Vatican Radio.

"That was a big deal to us. I keep it here in my office here at work."

There were quite a few items brought in, all dating from a wide range of eras. Bawden himself brought in a number of objects, one of which was an ancient roman denarius coin that dated back to the era of Emperor Hadrian.

Lowe was surprised to learn that the radio still worked, after another professor at the event plugged it in and tuned in to Justin Bieber on the over 60-year-old radio.

"The idea is to bring our majors together and have fun," said Bawden.

SGA sentate meeting recap

By HARRISON NEVILLE, SGA columnist

On Wednesday, Oct. 9, the SGA met in Farmer Hall for their weekly meetings.

There were no executive reports and no new legislation brought up this week.

President Pro-Tem Solomon Balaam-Reed met with the University's Technology Committee. The committee discussed new plans for increased cyber-security and a new plagiarism detection software for teachers.

Balaam-Reed also reported that the committee felt it was getting positive feedback from the new Falcon Print system.

The SGA Campus Life Committee announced that they were discussing concerns voiced by students over poor lighting in certain areas of campus and the possibility of getting better lighting in those areas. Complaints involving the wi-fi and the caf were also discussed.

The Governmental Committee brought up an issue with a student not fully understanding some of the wording of the recent LGBTQ+ scholarship.

A representative from the Academic Affairs Committee stated that the committee was discussing looking into the possibility of establishing a roll over fund for printing money on Falcon Print.

While, there was no new business for the SGA, the Executive Cabinet did remind all the Senators that there was still $7,000 in the budget to help fund bills.

For the Oct. 16 Senate meeting there were no executive reports or new legislation. SGA Vice President Madison Hollon talked about The Code of Laws, a senate committee whose job it is to check all of the bills brought forth by the Senate for both constitutionality and grammar errors.

The Executive Cabinet encouraged the Senate to bring forward new legislation and gave them the goal of putting forward three pieces of legislation by Thanksgiving.

On Oct. 23 the Senate met once again.

The meeting started with the SGA president, Olivia Eldridge reported on the Food Advisory Committee meeting. The committee discussed whether or not Moe's should be replaced, and if so, what it should be replaced with.

There were three options that Eldridge said the committee had discussed.

The first option is to keep Moe's.

The second option is to bring another national brand to replace Moe's.

The third option is to establish an "in house" option run by Chartwells, the group that runs UM's caf.

The main problem currently with keeping Moe's is the fact that it is costing the University money as a national brand like Moe's requires a certain amount of income in order for them to be on a college campus. Since Moe's isn't bringing in enough money, UM has to pick up the slack.

Another thing is that if Moe's stays, corporate would require that it be brought up to Moe's current standards so that it is properly representing their brand. This process would require a large amount of money to be devoted to Moe's.

If the University were to bring a different national brand to the campus, it would come with the same potential problem that Moe's is dealing with. In order to counteract this problem, the campus flex points would be split so that some would be dedicated to the food on campus and some would be allocated for campus and off.

Essentially, this would mean Cthat students would be unable to spend part of their flex at anything other than Einstein's and Moe's.

If UM were to put in a Chartwell's adaption then it would not require the splitting of flex points and might be able to accept swipes.

Eldridge asked that the Senators all meet with students and talk to them to gain their opinions. Faculty and staff senate are also discussing this and SGA Senate will discuss the issue again next week.

After moving on from the Moe's discussion, SGA Vice President, Madison Hollon prompted the Senate Committees to give their reports on what they discussed in their meetings.

The Academic Affairs Committee was working on a bill to see if the library hours could be extended on Saturday to stay open until 8 p.m.

The Campus Life Committee is working to change the constituent reports so that they direct complaints about food and wi-fi specifically to the people tasked with handling those issues.

The Governmental Affairs Committee discussed issues that students had with the accessibility of campus events, particularly some commuter students who felt that the times were poorly situated for their schedule.

The Student Rights and Interest Committee was working on a bill to set up hand-sanitizer stations in Davis.

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Viewpoints

Letter from the editor

By WAID JONES, Editor-in-chief



Waid Jones, Editor of the Alabamian

Feeling like you haven't quite met the expectations set before you is a complicated thing. And often times when looking at the work I've done while on campus I've had these emotions. Metering out your time between school, extracurricular activities and internships is a constant battle between how little sleep I'm okay with and how much time I have between classes.

Many on campus, and certainly on The Alabamian staff, suffer with these same issues. Putting together a newspaper every two weeks is a daunting task with a staff of our size, and this last week we managed to put two newspapers together in back to back weeks.

I'm incredibly proud of the long hours the staff has put in, and the dedication which they showed to continue to put out amazing content. They have shown incredible perseverance while working long hours to try to push out content at double our normal rate.

What many don't understand about The Alabamian is that the newspaper is put together in a matter of hours on a couple of nights. Layout, copy editing and design happen all within a matter of hours and this leads to a night that lasts well into the next morning and sometimes fully into the next day.

The staff of the paper knew and understood this when they took their current positions, but they have all risen to the incredibly daunting challenge of putting out a small college newspaper.

Often, when we go to conferences, such as the National College Media Conference that we'll probably at while you're reading this, we hear stories of larger newsrooms putting at content at similar rates to us, that are double, triple or even quadruple our size.

If you think it's a large team that puts together this newspaper, it's not, in fact I can remember everyone whose name warranted being on the masthead because there's only a few over ten of us who dedicate our Monday and Wednesday nights to this dream of an informed student body.

The dedication to the idea of a college newspaper is what sustains them, pushes them to constantly get better and push the paper in a fantastic direction.

This issue covers a wide variety of topics and features stories written, at times only moments before they had to be sent to the printer.

I'm telling you this because it shows how much the other members of staff care. While many students were asleep, this haphazard bunch of student journalists were working to provide something that many on campus glance over with little hesitation.

Please, support your student journalists and understand that they worked hard to bring this newspaper to you. If you've reached this point you've put a lot of effort into reading this, because oftentimes my writing can get dry. So please, take this newspaper and spend some time with it. I promise that you'll find something you're interested in on one of the pages, whether it's a piece of news, a horoscope or a movie recommendation that you weren't expecting.

This issue holds a lot for a lot of people and I highly recommend sharing with us your favorite part and telling us what you think, either on social media or by sending us an email at alabamian@montevallo.edu.

Separating the art from the artist

By JOSIE SHAW

Kanye West's "Jesus Is King" album was released on Oct. 25. The conversation about his character and morality is being brought up again. While this topic is nowhere near new in pop culture and the music community, it seems like the mental health aspect of his character is becoming more exploited over time to fit one's perspective and opinion.

Kanye's last album cycle took place in summer of 2019. It not only consisted of him promoting his new self-titled album, "Ye," it included him promoting and producing four other artists' albums that summer.

"I hate being bi-polar its awesome" was the tagline for the new record, and most of the lyrical themes were centered around his mental health. This wasn't the first time he got personal with his music, Kanye's been writing about spirituality and family since his first album. This era of his was a landmark for his vulnerability, but it was also a major time for media and public attention on his mental health.

As an audience of art, no one should be required to pay attention or take care of celebrity's mental health, but to have a fully educated opinion one needs to understand what bipolar disorder is and how it affects him and his actions.

There are two major parts to bipolar disorder, involving a manic and then depressive episode. While our culture is used to understanding what depression is, mania realistically doesn't boil down to a stereotype of craziness. Manic episodes consist of great bursts of creativity, confidence and an intense feeling of being overwhelmed.

My problem when the argument of Kanye's validity comes up is that no one seems to truly understand how uncontrollable these urges can be, especially when it pertains to rich celebrities that are already disconnected from the average man.

A defining characteristic of his most recent projects was the delayed amount of time between announcement and release. He has several unreleased albums under his belt, and he is now infamous for putting together albums in a short amount of time.

As of now, Kanye has announced nine albums since 2016, while only releasing four of those. It was reported in a 2018 New York Times podcast that Kanye planned on making and releasing "52 albums in 52 days."

The impulsiveness of his decisions and creativity obviously draw from his disorder, but that is not where his criticism is drawing from. Kanye is infamously known for spouting ridiculous or spontaneous ideas, whether it pertains to spirituality, race politics or being famous.

The timing of when he releases art and shares opinions have a direct correlation to his mental disorder. His Taylor Swift controversy was right in between his fourth and fifth studio releases, and his absurd "Slavery was a choice" quote was right before his most recent record was released. Some people tie that down to album promotion or trying to gain attention, but I think the clear connection is his mental health.

Another aspect to bipolar disorder is the manifestation of reliance and gullibility regarding other people. Constantly shifting from high confidence to low energy depression can make someone super impressionable, as seen in Kanye. A lot of Kanye's conservative opinions in 2018 were attributed to Candace Owens, a popular right-wing activist, influencing him to share ideals that he says he never believed in.

His current mentor is Adam Tyson, a preacher from Los Angeles. Kanye currently shares that his preacher convinced him to no longer make secular music, and to remove all cursing from his new songs. This almost led to Kanye leaving rap because he found it to be the "devil's music". His beliefs in spirituality are not too out of the way from what he normally talks about, but ideas this radical are clearly connected to his mental disorder.

Kanye's mental disorder shouldn't completely rule his social persecution, he should be held accountable to his actions. Completely ignoring or excusing his actions is dangerous, and just allows for more damage to happen to his mental state.

On the other hand, people that criticize him don't understand how severe the mental disorder can be. Blindly supporting or hating any artist can lead to trouble, especially when important social topics like mental health are at play.

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News

Professors discuss new PJS minor

By ARIEL HALL

Dr. Meredith Tetloff, associate professor of social work, and Dr. Jennifer Rickel, associate professor of English, came together in a BSS Brown Bag discussion on the new peace and justice studies minor. It will become available as of fall semester of 2020.

The discussion took place on Wednesday, Oct. 23 in UMOM.

During the summer of 2018, Tetloff and Rickel, along with associate professor of philosophy Dr. Stefan Forrester, went to a conference at the University of Notre Dame's Kroc Institute to learn more about the minor and other institutions.

The discussion began with Tetloff and Rickel describing what peace and justice studies means.

"We think about it as an academic discipline, so something we teach, something we research, as well as an action component," said Tetloff. "What are we learning in the classroom and what does it mean in our communities?"

Peace and Justice Studies, according to Tetloff and Rickel, breaks up into a kind of pie; the first part focuses on part harms while the other parts focus on current violence and conflict, and structural and institutional healing.

"Based on Alabama's history and the Montevallo's location in the center of the civil rights triangle, the Peace and Justice Studies minor makes sense," said Tetloff.

"We also are a university that was started for women, so we have a history or an idea of being inclusive and working on gender equity, as well as inclusiveness of LGBTQIA populations," added Rickel.

They also mentioned the Equal Justice Initiative's Legacy Museum in Montgomery, where a memorial of Montevallo's unidentified lynching victims is located.

Because the minor itself is interdisciplinary in nature and is comprised of classes that already taught at UM, they hope to bring together the social justice work that students and community members are already making strides towards as a part of other organizations.

For example, the Peace and Justice Studies committee partnered with the Montevallo Progressive Alliance and the Shelby County chapter of the NAACPA to host a criminal justice reform panel on Thursday, Oct. 24 at Parnell Memorial Library.

Based on the handout given out during the discussion, the minor allows students to complement their major and their field of study through a social justice framework.

Tetloff emphasized that the experience with Peace and Justice Studies can later become useful in a variety of careers, such as government officials, educators and businesspeople.

Tetloff and Rickel then described what brought them to be interested in social justice and Peace and Justice Studies.

"The mission of social work is to help people improve their wellbeing, with particular attention on people who are poor and vulnerable and oppressed," said Tetloff. "We have one of the most comprehensive anti-discrimination policies. Our values are around dignity, and social justice is one of our six core values."

"This area of study connects really quite seamlessly with literary studies because for somebody in English, it has to do with narrative. I approach this through 'what are the cultural narratives that are circulating to support slavery, to support continued inequality' and looking at texts," said Rickel.

The discussion ended with Tetloff and Rickel opening the audience for questions and comments.

"This was not that long ago, and we are still fighting a lot of these challenges. If we think as Selma as the impotence for the Voting Rights Act, then Calera is the impotence for the current restrictions on voting rights. I think this is really close to home for us," said Tetloff.

Roots, Thorns, and Vines take hold at UM Theatre Department

By KATY BARNES



Roots, Thorns and Vines cast performing in the Chi Box. Photo by Katy Barnes.

There is opportunity everywhere on Montevallo's campus, as long as you know where to look. One such student using the space to his full advantage is theatre senior, John-Chris Ward.

On Oct. 19 through the 20, Ward and his creative team produced their first full length play, entitled "Roots, Thorns, and Vines." Self-described as a "Generation Z coming of age story," it told the story of a young woman named Lilli and her coworkers at a local diner.

Initially, Ward was not planning on writing a play this semester.

"I was already scheduled to do a show this fall, but the show I initially planned on directing fell through," said Ward.

After it was determined that he would not be getting the rights to his first choice, he decided to write a play instead. Ward said he was determined to direct another show after the success of his directing debut last fall.

Told through a mix of poetry and prose, "Roots, Thorns, and Vines" explored the vulnerable moments of graduating and how it affects the people around you.

"The poetry is what is going on in the character's heads," said Ward during the talkback after the last performance. "This allows the characters to be more vulnerable while telling their stories."

He also uses his platform to promote the voices of minorities. When looking at the cast "Roots, Thorns, and Vines" one may notice that it was made up of people who are not usually cast as leads.

Within the script itself, the characters were from many different backgrounds – decisions like these were conscious choices by Ward to give voices to those who are often ignored.

"It was really important for me to put on this production with this specific cast, because I'm dedicated to telling the stories of the under-represented and under privileged," Ward shared. "I'm telling a Generation Z coming of age story and I couldn't tell our story without strong black, female and gay leads complimented with bi-visibility portrayed by a trans man."

His debut show, "Coffee: a Blaxploitation Event," was a cabaret style show about the African American experience throughout media, and it set the tone for what he would create in the future.

There was a lot of pre-planning involved before putting on "Roots, Thorns, and Vines." Due to it being an entirely original piece, Ward had to not only put the performance together, but he also had to write the script and develop it for the stage.

"I spent months working on the proposal, pre-production, character breakdowns, the plot scheme," Ward said in relation to the work that went into his production. "I think in some aspects I enjoyed pre-production more than production work. My producer hat is one of my favorite hats to wear alongside my writer hat."

The poetry was something that he had prewritten, however. In the talkback after the Sunday performance, he spoke about the process of writing the poems separate from the script. The poems were ones he had written in his personal life, to cope with things as he traversed college life.

He also talked about the idea of collaboration. "Roots, Thorns, and Vines" was a collaboration between John-Chris Ward, Kam Sanderfer, Jalynn Ashford and Hope Anthony.

Sanderfer wrote the additional dialogue and Ashford acted as the Assistant Director of the show. Anthony was the stage manager.

Overall, Ward said that this production was a team effort. "Everyone involved with this project had the opportunity to make important decisions about our production."

Maleha Larry, a junior in the theatre department and lead actress in "Roots, Thorns, and Vines" shared her experiences during the talk back, saying that they got to develop their characterizations as the process went on.

"We had a lot of time to explore our relationships with one another," she said. "During the process we got to decide who our characters were and what they are feeling each step of the way."

"We chose a college archetype and then got to explore who they were past that," Olivia LeComte, theatre sophomore, shared.

Overall, "Roots, Thorns, and Vines" shows that students on campus are creative and can use their voice to bring light to issues others on campus may not think about.

UPC hosts pumpkin painting event

By JAMIE BROWDER

UPC celebrated the spooky season with pumpkin painting on Oct. 17 in the student retreat building.

Event coordinator, Celia Venable, shared that UPC decided to host a pumpkin painting in reaction to how well-received their past painting events have been.

"So, we decided to do pumpkin painting because it's an event that we've done in the past that was very popular," shared Celia Venable. "We also did succulent plant pot painting back in September, so we thought it'd be really fun and cute to carry it over into a Halloween theme."

Students shared that having a chance to come together and do something artistic was just what they needed to boost themselves through the rest of the semester.

"I had a good time; I saw this on the Montevallo Instagram and I was like 'that looks fun.' There are a lot of people here, so it had a good turnout. I had fun. I have paint on my hands and that's how you know it's a good time," said Bell Jackson, graphic design sophomore.

As paint was spilled and pumpkins were painted, attendees could be heard laughing and talking.

"It's fun, you know, to get to paint pumpkins with your friends and make jokes. It's just a cute little thing," expressed Gabrielle Marshall, a sophomore.

Venable shared that she believes the events the organization puts on are crucial to keeping students happy and social.

"I think they're really important just because it's a nice relaxation tool," said Venable. "It gets the campus to come together and people who may not hang out quite as much outside are sitting together at tables and painting and talking."



Bell Jackson holds pumpkin. Photo by Jamie Browder.

From UPC, students can look forward to a haunted house on Oct. 28 and an upcoming casino themed and midnight breakfast closer to finals.



Shania Shelby paints pumpkin at UPC Event. Photo by Jamie Browder.

Legal Nightmare

By CODY HODGE



Not So Scary Movies to watch this season

By ARIEL HALL



Netflix movie options for a cozy night in watching not so scary movies. Photo by Kat Bell

Once October hits, we're ready for spooky season and while we loved telling scary stories in the dark when we were kids, not everyone loves horror. Halloween is one of my favorite holidays, but I hate scary movies. This tends to limit options when it comes to selecting movies during the holiday season.

To eliminate the burden of trying to find a spooky movie, read on:

This roundup includes some of my favorites, and some that I'm looking forward to watching for the first time this season.

"Monster House"

The dark and mysterious house across the street, one of the stories of childhood imagination, was brought to life in the 2006 film "Monster House." Directed by Gil Kenan, this movie follows three neighborhood kids on the eve of Halloween who must battle a sentient haunted house. The 3D computer animation also allows for stunning and creepy visuals.

"Practical Magic"

This film stars Sandra Bullock and Nicole Kidman as Sally and Gillian Owens sisters who were raised by their aunts after their parents' death. The two sisters have a strong bond and are the last of a lineage of witches and now must confront the curse of being an Owens: any man that they fall in love with is doomed and faces untimely death.

"Ghostbusters"

After three scientists lose their jobs at Columbia University, they decide to become "ghostbusters." Under their new snazzy business, they are called to face paranormal phenomenon in New York City – for a price. The mayor takes a chance and call them to help save the city because after all, who are you gonna call?

"Corpse Bride"

In Tim Burton's stop motion film, Victor and Victoria's families have arranged a marriage. However, when things go wrong at the wedding rehearsal and Victor goes to the woods to practice his vows, he finds himself accidentally married to Emily, the corpse bride. Now on the "other side," he must find a way back to Victoria as a wealthy newcomer is trying to take his place.

"Hocus Pocus"

After moving to Salem, Max Dennison and his sister Dani explore a house with their friend Allison. Max then accidentally frees a coven of evil witches who used to live in the house. With the help of a magical talking cat, the kids must steal the witches' spell book and stop them before the Sanderson sisters can become immortal.

"Addams Family Values"

The odd Addams Family are up to no good in this 1993 film. Gomez and his wife Morticia celebrate the arrival of a new baby boy, but older siblings Wednesday and Pugsley are not happy. After unsuccessful murder attempts on the new addition, the parents hire a nanny named Debbie, who unbeknownst to them, has cruel intentions.

"Beetlejuice"

Now becoming popularized with the new Broadway stage adaption, "Beetlejuice" offers some macabre hooligans. After Barbara and Adam die in a car accident, they find themselves haunting their house, but when a new family moves in and they fail to scare them away, they enlist help. Beetlejuice, played by Michael Keaton, is a rambunctious poltergeist becomes dangerous to the couple and Winona Ryder's character, Lydia.

Submit your comics to *alabamian@montevallo.edu* for a chance to be featured in our next issue!



REANNA'S REALITY CHECK

By REANNA PIPES
LIFESTYLES COLUMNIST

Hi Reanna,

I'm in a bit of a predicament. Over the last few months, I have started developing feelings for one of my best friends. They are also my roommate and have been for over a year. I don't want to ruin our friendship but I don't know if I can ignore my feelings. What do you think I should do?

Sincerely,
Lovesick Lady

Dear Lovesick,

That is definitely a tough situation. Having feelings for someone that is so close to you and not knowing how to act is scary. My advice is to not rush into things. I am not saying do not ever tell them how you feel; just do not spill your guts right away.

The thought of them not liking you back is upsetting, but you still should take it into consideration. I do not know what exactly your friendship is like, but it is always at risk in situations like yours. But do not let that stop you from embracing how you feel.

I suggest talking to another friend, one that knows you and your roommate well, and talk to them about the situation. Finding someone that you can trust and lean on in this situation can give you a boost of confidence as well as someone to talk your feelings out with.

You should not be scared because friendship is often a start to a romance. You know each other well and you have already gone through the "getting to know you" stage. Hopefully this person is someone you can be honest with and they will be understanding no matter how they feel in return.

When you get to a point where you are both comfortable with your feelings and your friendship, then sit down with your roommate and have a conversation about your feelings for them. There is no guarantee that their feelings will be mutual, but at least you were honest and do not have any secrets between each other.

In the end, it is your decision on whether to come clean or not. I hope everything works out in your favor, and know that you can always lean on your other friends for support.

Dear Reanna,

I am starting to have issues with my current roommate on campus. We share a bathroom and every time I go for a shower her hair is all over the walls, sink and floor. I know it's hers because it is much longer than mine.

It's disgusting and gross and the fact that she doesn't care enough to clean it up just makes me want to cut her ponytail off in her sleep. I don't want to cause an argument, but I can't handle this much longer. How would you deal with this?

Thanks in advance,
Sally Scissorhands

Dear Sally,

First off, please do not cut off your roommate's hair. That is definitely the quickest way to start that argument that you do not want to have.

While I do not know how close you two are, I think the best option would be to just sit down and talk to your roommate. She might not think something like hair everywhere is a big deal.

If she, for some reason, does not start cleaning up her mess in the bathroom, another option would be to talk to your RA about the problem. They can sit you both down and help you come to a calm resolve and make sure that both of your sides are heard.

There are lots of reasons that roommates can disagree over, so it is best if you let her know as soon as possible. You do not want this problem to grow until you suddenly cannot stand her because of her hair, and she will not even know why.

****Disclaimer*

"The advice offered in this column is intended for informational purposes only. Use of this column not intended to replace or substitute for any professional, financial, medical, legal, or other professional advice. If you have specific concerns or a situation in which you require professional, psychological or medical help, you should consult with an appropriately trained and qualified specialist. This column, its author, the newspaper and publisher are not responsible for the outcome or results of following any advice in any given situation. You, and only you, are completely responsible for your actions. "

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SGA senate cont.

They also brought up students concerns over the fact the heating and air-conditioning is shut off in Bloch over the weekend and students still need to use the building during that time.

After the committee reports, the Senate sworn in the new Arts and Sciences Senator, Nahia Constant.

For announcements, Senior Elite Night will be on Nov. 6 at 6 p.m. November WOW weekend will be on Nov. 8 and 9 and will consist of Friendsgiving celebration on the Nov. 8 and a tailgating party on the Nov. 9. Midnight Breakfast will take place Dec. 8.

So far, SGA has passed two bills this semester and has had over five weeks with no new legislation brought to the floor.

When asked, Eldridge said she was eager for new legislation to be brought to the floor by the Senate, but did not describe the situation as a problem.

"We don't have any legislation but it's not like we have as many issues going on so that's always good," said Eldridge, "but I'm definitely looking forward to having some legislation on the floor."

Eldridge said that she expects the Senate to have legislation on the floor by next meeting, saying that it takes a bit at the beginning for the committees to get situated and learn how to get things rolling.

"It's like a giant group project with 10 people so that takes time and then suddenly everyone gets done at the same time and then we have like five pieces of legislation on the floor in one week."

The SGA Senate will reconvene on Wednesday Oct. 30.







By PEYTON LANG

Aries ♈ If you're feeling sensitive to others, reach out and do an act of kindness! You thrive in the presence of others and are a leader. Reaching out might impact someone in ways that you never expected!

Taurus ♉ Love is in the forecast for you, Taurus! You might find yourself crushing, but if it's not reciprocated don't feel bad about putting your energy elsewhere. Because passion rules your sign, you make a great partner. Don't settle for someone who doesn't share the same energy.

Gemini ♊ You're craving balance in your life and you can achieve this through both work and play! Work hard, play hard. Your strength in multi-tasking will allow you to do both if you let it. Getting out and about can be healthy for you!

Cancer ♋ Don't let your daydreams just be your daydreams. If you're admiring someone from afar, it might be worth looking into! For a sensitive lil crab like yourself, dating isn't always your thing because of the "getting to know each other" part. It can feel like too much but, in the right place and right time, it could be magic!

Leo ♌ You're no pushover and now is not the time to become one, Leo. If something or someone is becoming harder to work with than you thought, talk about it! If you have to compromise, that's okay. You won't lose your advantage by confronting and communicating the issue at hand.

Virgo ♍ It's okay to feel fearful every so often, but don't let it hold you back from showcasing what you know you're skilled at! If you keep a positive attitude, you'll make big strides. Push the limits even if it's a little frustrating. Take the baby steps you need to succeed and it'll be worth it in the end.

Libra ♎ You might look back over the past few weeks and see how much you've accomplished, Libra. Things that you'd been afraid to do or try in the past may no longer be an issue. You might have even conquered them already!

Scorpio ♏ You could be anxious about matters that aren't as important as you think. For instance, a lack of self-confidence could be in affect, but no worries. Sometimes thinking a little too hard can put you down, but it's not you. Just your pretty little head! Confide in others if it will help. There's no harm in having a little bit of support.

Sagittarius ♐ You might be busy with social occasions and fresh opportunities, but another side of you may be craving peace and quiet. Through a new moon this weekend, opportunity arises to inspire a new and healthy way to cope with stress and calm your mind!

Aquarius ♒ Opportunities are on the forecast! You work hard and it's being noticed. You're making connections and coming into contact with big choices that will help further you on your journey. Stay true to yourself and you will be proud of the success you are achieving!

Pisces ♓ Your life is evolving in so many ways. You may feel pressure to surrender control over something that you never felt in control of in the first place. Whether it's an intimate relationship or a financial commitment, you have more power and freedom than you feel. Even if you have to negotiate, things will turn out and this time will pass.

Capricorn ♑ Take the time to figure out your goals so that you can make choices with a clear mind. Even if you run into insecurities, trust that you have what it takes. Don't be afraid to reach out to others and go after what you're passionate about! You have friends and connections that are willing to help you.

Creepypasta explained

By KATY BARNES

This time of year, everyone loves a good scare, and you'd be hard pressed to find ones better than in the movies. Editing and special effects have come a long way from the days of "Paranormal Activity," and with films like "It: Chapter 2" and "Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark" it's easy to enjoy these terrifying leaps in modern entertainment.

However, with the excitement of movies we are quick to forget another source of spookiness this season – the scary story. More specifically, I refer to the Creepypasta.

Creepypastas are modern legends, appearing out of nowhere and managing to stick around like the ghost stories that came before them. The word Creepypasta is a combinations of the words "Creepy" and "Copypasta," a Copypasta being similar to a chain letter, just a block of text to be copied and pasted throughout the internet.

Originally, they were posed onto forums anonymously, but as time progressed the writers of the most popular creepypastas came forward. There have now been published books filled with horror stories from all around the internet.

The first example of creepypasta can be traced back to late 2000 – early 2001 with the story "Ted the Cadaver." It is the story about a man who goes spelunking and discovers a hole in the cave, which he dubs "Mystery Cave." The story ends with Ted, the narrator of the story, telling the audience he'll update them as soon as he gets back from the cave for the last time. There is not another update past that.

In 2004, the author came forward online to say it was a fictionalized event. However, his blog posts birthed a new way of telling horror stories on the internet. When written like a confessional, it is almost impossible to tell whether the story is true – creating the spooky atmosphere they so desired. It also set the tone for creepypasta to be less based in gore and more based in the psychological aspect.

Another wildly popular creepypasta is the story of Slenderman. Originating on the Something Awful internet forum, it was an edited image of an incredibly tall man surrounded by children. From there, the image exploded into the consciousness of the internet and it became the first viral creepypasta.

The character of Slenderman has inspired many creators to write their own stories around the character, one of the most famous being the "Marble Hornets saga." Filmed in Pelham, AL, it revolves around a group of students making a short film. Marble Hornets acted as the beginning for much of the Slenderman mythos that exists today.

Where Ted the Cadaver focuses on the psychological aspect of horror, and the Slenderman focuses on jump scares and unease, the next type of creepypasta focuses on curiosity. It is the Lost Episode trope. The basis for these is that the narrator finds a banned tape of an old TV show, such as "SpongeBob" or "The Simpsons."

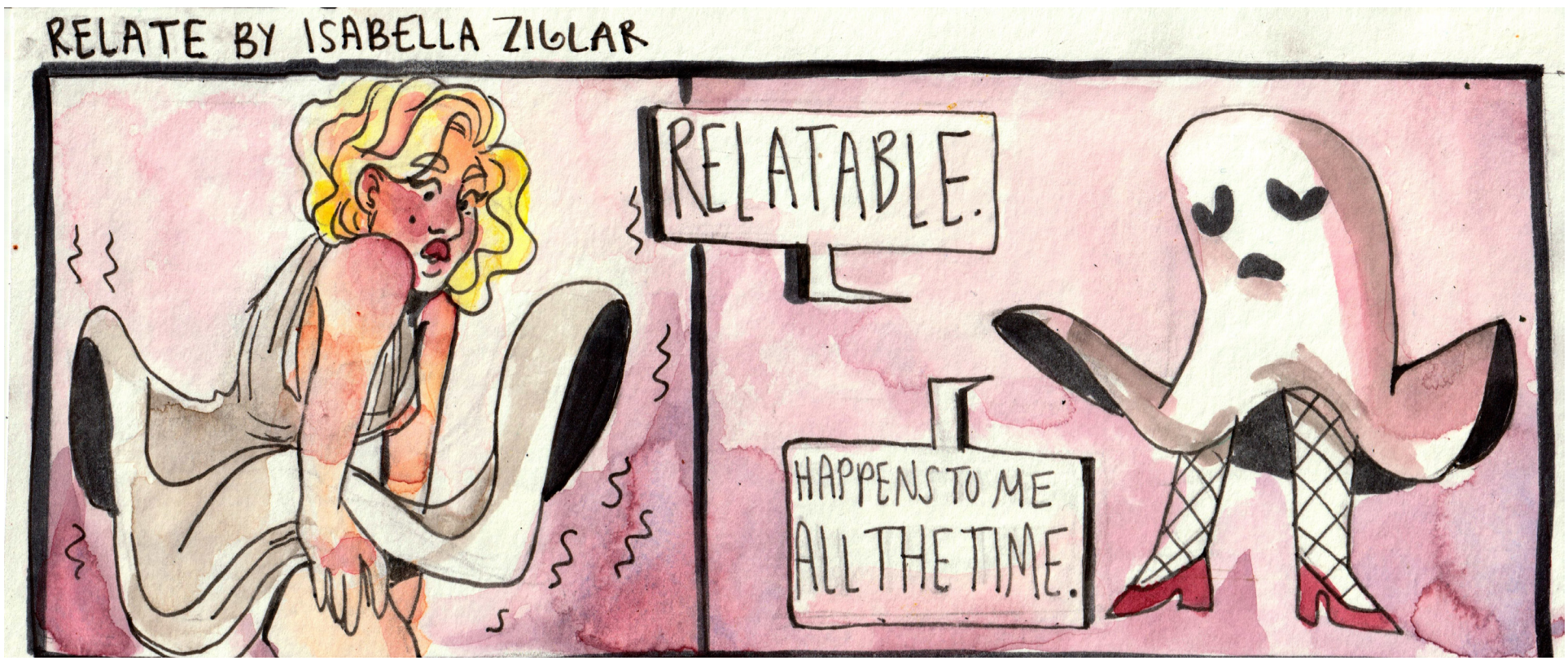
They can also come in the form of old video games, such as the legend of Ben Drowned. In the "Ben Drowned" story, the narrator buys an old copy of "The Legend of Zelda" that is cursed with the spirit of the last owner.

This trope plays on the idea of nostalgia for these old shows coupled with the mystery of where the alleged tapes come from. Horror stems from the unknown and these older types of media are prone to glitching - allowing for the perfect setting for a modern horror story.

They also explore the idea of things that are supposed to be innocent being horrific – such as the story "Cupcakes," which is a lost episode story based off of the children's show "My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic."

Creepypasta's popularity has waned within recent years due to it simply falling out of style. With the rise of indie horror games acting as more interactive type of creepypasta stories have become less exciting. Games such as "Doki Doki Liturature Club" or "Bendy and the Ink Machine" pay homage to these early internet stories, inspired by the horror of the lost episodes and video games mentioned before.

The art of the creepypasta is forever preserved on the Creepypasta Wiki, a free website filled with stories from across the web. If you find yourself bored this season with the same horror movies you watch every year, maybe go check it out. It might be just the fright you need.



Spotify PLAYLIST

By The ALABAMIAN STAFF

SPOOKY TUNES

Monsters by Ruelle

This edgy banger is what all the werewolves and freaky frights will be playing at their Halloween parties as they bask in the wonderful life of being a creature of the night.

Mr. Sandman cover by SYML

A cover of the classic song by The Chordettes that brings a hauntingly new life to an old classic. SYML reworks the typically happy song in a way that makes the lyrics sound dark and desperate, a in the spooky mood for Halloween.

Lifetime Achievement Award by Lemon Demon

Lemon Demon has a real knack for narrative songs, and Lifetime Achievement Award is a classic mad-scientist body-building (or... body RE-building) story complete with spooky synths, ghostly howling, and great lines like "From the grave to the stage, you're a natural, babe."

Ghost by Mystery Skulls

The music video for this is a spoof of Scooby Doo, and that's incredibly fitting for this song. It's an upbeat dance tune, perfect for your next Halloween party playlist or your next high-speed ghost hunting adventure.

Into the Unknown by The Blasting Company

A song perfect for getting lost in the woods to, Into The Unknown sums up the eerie atmosphere of the season. It also serves as the theme song for Over the Garden Wall, so that's fun.

I Can't Decide by The Scissor Sisters

The happy-go-lucky tune adds to the horror of the song and it quickly devolves into something anything but. It feels like something a clown might sing as it chases you down to kill you.

The Alabamian

Vol. 94, No.6

Monday, Novemver 11, 2019

Alabama representives on: Impechment

By WAID JONES, Editor-chief



"Today's vote reinforces our commitment to holding the President to account for what increasingly appears to be an extreme abuse of his presidential power. In its investigation so far, the Intelligence Committee has uncovered a substantial amount of evidence showing President Trump betrayed his oath of office and the American people."
Terri Sewell (D) - 7

"I am proud to stand with President Trump and fight against the Democrats' witch hunt."
Mike Rogers - 3

"This is a sad day for our country, but the facts are in our favor and cannot be hidden from the American people forever. Until then, I will not stop fighting to expose and defeat this politically motivated sham"
Bradley Byrne- 1

"I voted no! While Congress does have the CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY to impeach a President, it was meant to only be used as a response to actual crimes committed by a President. So far, in what little information the Democrats have selectively leaked, I've seen nothing that rises to the level of overturning an American election."
Robert Aderholt - 4

"Impeachment rips apart America by ripping apart American votes. It's a travesty that Socialist Democrats are proceeding with this impeachment despite ZERO evidence of an impeachable offense."
Mo Brooks - 5

SGA senate meeting recap: Oct 30

By HARRISON NEVILLE. SGA columnist



Olivia Eldridge, SGA Presdient, talking to Senetors about up coming issues at October 30, 2019 SGA meeting. Photo by Harrison Neville



Harrison Neville, SGA Columnist

On Oct. 30's SGA meeting the primary issue discussed was based upon an update given by Olivia Eldridge, SGA President, on the situation involving the future of the on-campus food option in Farmer currently occupied by Moe's. Eldridge reiterated the points she previously highlighted last meeting and asked the Senate to voice their opinions on the option before them and to speak out about the concerns of students involving the issue.

The biggest concern that the Senate raised was the dislike for the idea of splitting of flexpoints, which would allocate students flex so that certain amounts would be required to be spent at the on-campus options and not the options on main street.

Eldridge stated that her impression at this point was that the only way for the flex not to be split into separate two separate allotments would be for UM to establish an "in house" option through Chartwell's, the group responsible for managing the caf.

The consensus among the Senate was that students didn't want to have Chartwell's running the option because they were afraid it would be "just more caf food," so despite their reservations about splitting the flex, most senators supported bringing a national brand to campus.

Many of the Senators did feel strongly that they would like to negotiate the terms of the split and see if it couldn't be made to be something other than a fifty/fifty split, and have the majority of the flex free for students to use wherever they chose.

One positive benefit of the dedicated flex that Eldridge voiced was her belief based upon meetings she'd had with UM officials that it might be possible to extend the hours of dining option in Farmer to include the weekends.

The SGA briefly discussed some of the options that they would be interested in bringing to campus, which included Taziki's and Panera.

Eldridge said that she and Thomas Dillard, the Student Trustee, would be meeting with the board of trustees to discuss their options.

"The Board of Trustees is really good about listening to student opinion, but they do have to consider the financial side," said Eldridge.

After wrapping up the discussion on food, the SGA moved onto new business.

Daja Nash was sworn into the SGA as the new Housing Senator.

The Senate had two new bills brought forward by Freshman Senator Abbie Clark, Minority Senator Josiah Garrett, Commuter Senator Alexis Martinez, and Director of Social Services Dakota Patrick.

The first bill was for the student retreat center to devote some of SGA's funding to getting more chair and table racks. The cost of this bill would be a total of $558.98.

The second bill was to replenish the supply of tiny pencils in the student life office.

The plan is to purchase in bulk and get five thousand pencils. Last time this purchase was made the pencils lasted 4 years. In order to dilute the cost, they proposed that the cost of the pencils be split between the SGA Senate budget and the Executive members budget.

The cost of the pencils would be $0.42 per pencil which be a total cost of $2,267.98. Splitting the cost between the 2 budgets would mean that $1,133.99 would be taken out of each budget.

Some concern was raised over whether the pencils were environmentally friendly. Wooden pencils were voiced as a possible more environmentally friendly option, but some Senators pointed out that many grabbed the pencils in preparation for test and that the advantage of mechanical was that they didn't require sharpening.

Dakota Patrick, Director of Social Services, who helped spearhead this bill admitted that he had not considered these issues, but that he and his team would devote time to considering it.

Both bills were tabled to be voted on next week.

NEWS *in* BRIEF

By WESLEY HYDE

Story 1: Twitter decides to ban all political ads.

On Oct. 30 Twitter cofounder and CEO Jack Dorsey announced on his Twitter account that all political advertisements would be banned from the platform. He stated the reason for this was that political messages should gain traction on the site by the user interaction and interest rather than through monetary means.

This comes only months before the 2020 election year, and roughly a year before election day. This also comes after weeks of scrutiny of competitor Facebook's advertising policies that not only allows political advertisement to be placed on their platform, but also declines to fact check and penalize offending parties. Dorsey then stated that a full policy would be made public Nov. 15.

Story 2: California wildfire's and presidential library threat.

California was hit by another large wildfire named the Maria fire in late October and entering early November. Multiple sources showed that firefighters had started making large steps in containing the fire which had consumed more than 9,000 acres of land. Though this seemingly good news came out on Nov third President Donald Trump posted a string tweets stating California Gavin Newsom begged for money from the Federal Government which was followed by

"No more. Get your act together Governor," seemingly threatening to cut funds.

Newsom dismissing the president claiming the president doesn't believe in climate change. This all come roughly a few days after the Office of the Governor of California announced that a grant from FEMA to combat the fires.

Story 3: McDonalds CEO Fired

Sunday, Nov. 3, McDonalds announced that they would be removing CEO Steve Easterbrook from his position and would be replacing him with McDonalds USA President Chris Kempczinski. Though not fully detailing the situation, the company and Easterbrook disclosed that he was being removed because he had engaged in a relationship with one of the company's employees which violated company policy. Easterbrook stated that he both understood and agreed with the actions taken by McDonalds.

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Viewpoints



The Alabamian staff went to DC last week and traveled to the National College Media Convention. So, I'd like to start off by congratulating our fantastic managing editor of production, Kat Bell, for winning honorable mentioned for her photo in the general news category of Photo of the Year.

Kat has been a fantastic addition ever since she joined the paper last year and has become one of my closest friends. She always has something excellent to add to the paper. Her work, effort and dedication are refreshing and her commitment to the artistry of her photography is one of the most inspiring things I can experience on a daily basis.

She is truly an amazing person and I value her friendship.

Along with attending awards shows and eating great food while in DC, we discussed ways to improve the paper as it's a constant journey. Learning how to do anything never really stops.

Part of the function of a newspaper is to give the public an opportunity to voice their concerns through open participation. This allows the voices of not only the newspaper's staff, but also the community that it represents to have a say in the conversation surrounding an issue.

This participation also allows us to understand when we've made a mistake and is an important part of the process of being a newspaper. This allows us to grow and represent the University community better.

The conversation that journalists hope to inspire rarely gets to play out on our own page as letters to the editor play off of, inform or contradict each other; however, on this issue's opinion page none of the other opinions are expressed by The Alabamian's staff, but instead our readers.

I hope this encourages more people to send in letters to the editor or reach out when you see something that you don't agree, or that is incorrect. While newspapers are a collaborative effort and every word on the page is read by multiple people before it is printed, we still miss things and it helps when people reach out when they find it.

If you have an opinion, a news story you'd like to cover or just want to talk you can reach us at alabamian@montevallo.edu or DM us through social media.

Letters to the editor

Pruitts apology

On October 10, 2019

I participated in the Life Raft Debate in Palmer Auditorium. I chose to do a comedy routine that included a gynecologist-wallet joke. This was a bad decision and I am very sorry to those that I offended. When I read the article in the Alabamian, I was embarrassed and I apologize to the UM community, my students, and my colleagues. I don't want anyone to associate my bad judgement to my colleagues. They have published articles, obtained grants, written books, and I feel horrible that I have damaged our strong reputation. I am sorry for putting a negative light onto our Department of Communication. I want to thank those participating in the article for bringing to my attention how the joke was offensive and for sharing their experiences. I hear you, and I won't make this mistake again. This is a case of the student teaching the instructor and I accept full responsibility for my actions. I made a mistake.

Mr. Brook Pruitt

Ana Muñoz

Dear Alabamian Staff,

I am writing in response to Jamie Browder's article in Monday, Oct. 21, 2019's issue of The Alabamian (Vol. 94, No. 4). I appreciate its inclusion in the issue and wholeheartedly agree with your criticism of Brook Pruitt's routine at the Life Raft Debate. His behavior was unacceptable, and that needed to be discussed in a public forum.

I was, however, concerned by some of Browder's terminology within the article. While the misogynistic undertones and predatory comments about cisgender women specifically are certainly extremely important in this conversation, I was disappointed to see the repeated use of the term "female genitalia" in the article. As an AFAB (assigned female at birth) nonbinary reader, it was upsetting that consideration for the transgender community at UM wasn't taken in the editing and publishing of this article.

The terminology used in the article alienates both AFAB transgender people, who (if they have not had sex reassignment surgery) have the genitalia referenced in Pruitt's routine but are definitely not women because of this; as well as transgender women, who (if they have not had sex reassignment surgery) do not have the genitalia referred to as "female genitalia" in the article, but are not any less women because of this. The incorrect use of this terminology alienates and hurts your transgender readership.

In addition, there are many layers to Pruitt's crude joke about gynecology, and the implication of violence towards cisgender women is a huge factor. However, in referring to the joke's consequences as solely a cisgender women's issue about cisgender women's genitalia, this article lacks considerable depth in the description of the problematic nature of Pruitt's routine. The generalized implication of sexual violence can affect all people with the genitalia referenced in the routine. In the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey conducted by the National Center for Transgender Equality, it was found that 47% of American transgender people are sexually assaulted at some point in their life. I use this statistic not to make an argument that trans people are more important than cisgender women in this issue- quite the contrary, this isn't the Oppression Olympics- but to argue that both experiences are important and should be highlighted and explored in order to give depth and a fully rounded assessment to the effects of Pruitt's routine.

This problem could have been avoided in a few ways, such as making a point to quote transgender students on their thoughts about Pruitt's routine (I know a lot of us were very frustrated at his words), as well as referring to the genitalia in a more trans-friendly way (such as medical terms like vagina, or AFAB genitalia).

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I did not want to write this letter as a rant or inflammatory complaint; I know The Alabamian staff is working very hard this semester, and I want you to know I am extremely grateful for the work you do for the UM student body. I know we stand together in the hopes that there will be action taken by the UM administration in response to what Pruitt did at the Life Raft Debate, and I am very appreciative of that.

Thanks and all best,

Ana Muñoz (they/them)

Letter to the Editor of The Alabamian

30 October 2019

Dear Editor,

As communication faculty, we value collaborative efforts to create safe environments for learning and socializing among all students. We also value free speech, while recognizing the need to be tempered with sound judgment. We further recognize the power of communication in shaping our campus experiences, and we seek to ensure ethical and considerate use of this power at all times and in all places.

Civility and positivity are key features of effective public discourse. We appreciate how the University of Montevallo's long-standing tradition of the Life Raft Debate is a great light-hearted opportunity for UM faculty to demonstrate to the campus community the value and power of communication in a public forum.

Because we share these values, we also cannot condone speech—in any context—that is unprofessional, crude, or that creates an uncomfortable space for learning and the development of healthy student-teacher relationships.

It is our hope that students and other members of the community will continue to embrace ethical and effective communication as a means for continual improvement of our society in more formal, as well as light-hearted contexts.

Sincerely,

Drs. Sherry G. Ford, Sally Bennett Hardig, Raymond R. Ozley, Tiffany R. Wang, Jay Cofield, Bruce W. Finklea

SUBMIT NEWS TIPS TO *alabamian@montevallo.edu*

CORRECTIONS

In issue 4 in "Students voice concerns over Life Raft Debate joke" the term "female genitalia" was used instead of the more appropriate and gender inclusive term "vagina" which should have been used.

Issue 5, in the article "Separating the art from the artist" it was stated that Kanye West's album "Ye" released in summer of 2019 when the album actually released June 1, 2018"

WRITE

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Contributing Comic artists

Cody Hodge
Isabella Zigglar

Contributing photographers

Katy Barnes
Ariel Hall

Adviser

Tiffany Bunt

Board of trustees meeting recap

By HARRISON NEVILLE

The board of trustees held an open meeting on Friday, Nov. 1. Well-dressed professionals sat down at the long table in Reynolds Merrill Room, and as members of the board of trustees voted on decisions impactful for everyone involved with the University of Montevallo.

Naturally, one of the greatest for this group involved the handling of various financial aspects for UM. This included the new construction occurring on campus, improvements to buildings on campus, and increasing donations from Alumni.

UM has seen around 4% increase in Alumni donor spending from the 2017-2018 year to the 2018-2019 year, with a total Alumni participation rate of 9.06%. This is approximately 5% above the national average.

Total donation retention rate for UM is currently 54.34%, which is 25% over the national average.

Despite all of the increases in funding, UM saw an 8.6% drop in enrollment, including both graduate and undergraduate, from 2016 to 2019. The University also saw a decrease of 3% in retention rates from the 2015 Fall Freshman class retaining 54% of their original members at the beginning of their senior year compared to the 2014 Fall Freshman class which retained 57%.

Several pledges have been made to the university to name certain locations on campus.

Dr. Woody and Dr. Lynne Richardson pledged $25,000 to name the Woody and Lynne Richardson Dean's Suite, which will be located in the new Stephen College of Business building.

Robert C. Chapman pledged $10,000 to name the Robert C. and June Chapman Computer Lab, located in Harman Hall.

Tracey Morant Adams and Jeff Adams pledged $15,000 to name the Tracey Morant Adams and Jeff Adams Conference Room, which will be located in the new Stephens College of Business building.

Counseling services will be relocated to the Puryear House on January 6, 2020. The new Center for the Arts ribbon cutting ceremony will be held April 16, 2020.

One issue that has seen much discussion of late has been the decision of what will occupy the space in Farmer currently filled by Moe's.

Stewart explained that one of the complexities of the issue lay in the fact that any new national brand brought to Montevallo to occupy the space in Farmer Hall would have to come through Chartwells, the group contracted out to run UM's food service.

"At this point we're still discussing this with Chartwell's," said Stewart.

2nd annual mass communication day

By HARRISON NEVILLE

On Nov. 1 UM's department of Mass Communication held Mass Comm day in Strong Hall from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This is the second year the department held the event. It is essentially a set of workshops held in Strong Hall to showcase the department to prospective students.

Dr. Jay Cofield, professor of mass communication, explained that the reason the department started to do the event annually.

He stated event began because Strong Hall, which opened in September of 2017, is one of the newer buildings on campus, and as such the department decided a good way to help grow interest in the programs held there they would invite local high schools to tour facility. This year roughly 63 students from Calera, Tuscaloosa, Montevallo, and Hale county, and individuals from other schools came to the event.

The bulk of Mass Comms day came from the workshops, the topics included things such as: Newscast Writing, TV Studio production, Photo Shop Graphics, and Gathering Story ideas, etc. These workshops were led by department members as well as outside professionals, one such individual is Monica Washington. Washington led workshops on: Blog Writing, and Social Media for News, where she stated her primary objectives were to teach the visiting student how to find their audiences, define their objectives to said audiences and explaining how social media and news interact.

Also visiting Strong Hall were teachers and career coaches from the visiting schools, one of these was Keyla Handley a career coach with Shelby County Schools. Mrs. Handley shared that a big reason the schools have started to help build awareness for Mass Comms Day is that, besides an obvious interest in Mass Communications being expressed by the students, they wish to help show high schoolers aspiring to go into the field local options which may help students make decisions that could help the financial burden of college.

Amongst the high schoolers touring the facility Montevallo students could be seen walking back and forth between workshops carrying cameras. Kendall Messer the student productions manager explained that a hand selected group of Mass Communications students were asked to assist in preparation as well as filming of the event. The footage they captured would eventually find its way into a highlight reel of the event.

Amongst the Visiting Students a common sentiment was that the most intriguing part of the tour of the facility was the production studio as well as the control room. Aside from these two another popular segment were the early screenings of the Scare My Shorts Off Festival entries which concluded the event.

The Scare My Shorts Off festival is a small film festival held at Montevallo to show off Highschool and College short horror films. These year early screenings were held in Strong Hall so that visiting students who had submitted could view their entries before they left. Though the official festival would be held at 5 pm later that day Mr. Brook Pruitt an Assistant professor of mass communications announced the winners for the best high school production which was Cats-tv from Tuscaloosa County High School with their short film Nana's Doll, which was followed by the best actor award which was given to Payton Townsend of Cat's-TV. The winners of the festival were: Abbie Self as Best Actress In Study Hours by Sav Cook, Beth Technical Production was awarded to Human by Houston Byrd, and Being Haunted by Annie Funderburk received The Audience Favorite.

Mr. Pruitt stated that though the festival is still growing, he hopes that the end of construction on the Center for the Arts will bring further interest to the festival. He also said that winners will have their short films displayed on the tv in Strong Halls lobby.

Students reach for the stars at COMS day

By HARRISON NEVILLE





Above: Communication Studies alumni panel at 2019 COMS Day. Below: Sarah Engele and Pearson Bell drawing tickets for raffel prizes. Photos courtesy of Universty Marketing and Communication.

The University of Montevallo Department of Communication Studies hosted its annual COMS Day event in the Student Activity Center on Thursday, Oct. 31. The event is a large part of the COMS 499 capstone class for Senior Communication majors.

Students put together and plan out the event as a part of their class.

"Event planning is an important skill set for a lot of communication fields," said Dr. Raymond R. Ozley an associate professor in the Department of Communications and the professor for the COMS 499 capstone class.

Every aspect of the event from advertising and fund raising to decorating and organizing is the responsibility of the students in the class. The students in the class form committees to divide up the various task necessary for COMS day.

One of these many tasks involved was selecting Alumni to come and host booths and speak on a panel. The group in charge of this tried to get those who were closest to UM because they believed that they would be easier to reach out to and more likely to come.

An alumnus there, Jordan Strong, is now employed by Champion Windows and Home Exteriors as their event planner. This was Strong's second year coming to Coms day.

When asked why he comes, Strong said, "To showcase what students can do with their degree after college."

Another Alumni at COMS Day was Jamie Haas, who is now a communication and marketing associate with The Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens, a non-profit group that works in partnership with the gardens to help with fundraisers and website management.

"It's been really exciting to get to see and greet the underclassman who I didn't get to know o," said Haas.

After the event started and time had been given for people to mingle and talk, they held the first panel, which featured several COMS Professors answering questions directed to them by students. Some of the questions were ones picked by the event organizers, but the rest were directed at the panelist by the audience.

The professors brought forward to be on the panel were Drs. Tiffany Wang, Raymond R. Ozley, Sherry Ford, Sally Bennet Hardig and Jefferson Walker. Some of the topics covered included the professors' goals for their students, what their Halloween costumes were, how they handle overcoming anxiety when public speaking, and what would they be if they weren't professors.

The consensus among the professors seemed to be that their goals for their students were for them to gain confidence in speaking for themselves.

Regarding Halloween costumes Walker said his Halloween costume was a blockbuster employee and Ozley said he was wearing his costume.

When it came to anxeiety, Ozley said that he doesn't overcome anxiety, but instead tries to manage it, while Ford said she engages in positive self-talk.

If she wasn't a COMS professor Wang says she might want to be Dean of Student Life.

"I think I'd be a cat lady," said Hardig. After the laughter died down, she said she'd probably really be a high school counselor because she enjoys helping students.

After the panel by the professors there was another panel featuring current COMS students. The students selected were sophomore Raina Verser, junior Meghan Hilley and senior John Englebert.

The three students passed on advice to their fellow COMS students.

One of the questions directed to the trio was, "what was the turning point where you thought, I got this?"

"Just the fact that they [professors] were so welcoming was it," said Verser.

The final panel consisted of alumni Brittany Davis, Brittany Foster, Jamie Haas and Kyle McDonald.

NOVEMBER

2019

ATHLETICS SCHEDULE

SAT 2

10:00 A.M. **North Georgia (Women's Basketball)**
Dahlongega, GA

TUE 5

Men's Golf (Columbus State Invitational)
Birmingham, AL

BFA show

By JAY BEND



Clothes line of Rilee Garrett's embroidered self portraits at her BFA show Oct. 27, 2019. Photo by Kat Bell

On Oct. 27, Senior BFA students Sara Scott and Rilee Garrett held their BFA Exhibition in Bloch Hall. The exhibition is for BFA students and it will help them meet their BFA degree requirements as well as give them some exposure in a professional setting.

With such works as "Vantas" and "Yellow Roses", Garrett's love and passion for her art was highly evident.

Using the theme of memento mori, standing for the symbolic representation of death, she managed to crank out five different works that connected to each other seamlessly while sticking to the overall theme itself.

Garret chose the momento mori theme to exemplify the reality of death being unavoidable, while also embracing the idea of cherishing life while one still has it. "Therefore, it gives it an introverted, textured and interesting view", stated Garrett.

"Description of the elements surrounding us," is just some of the ways that Sara Scott uses to explain her art. Based on the theme "Against Our Roots", it is meant to bridge together the lack of understanding between human nature and the environment, and to answer the questions on why we can never fully explain why nature behaves the way it is. When asked to describe her work in three waves she exclaimed "introspective, naturalistic with just a hint of magical realism "

The next exhibition begins Nov. 10 in Bloch Hall and will continue until Nov. 21 and will feature words by Christa Kimbrough and Ashlie Lodge. It will be open from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.



Sara Scott's painting up on display for her BFA Show.
Photo by Kat Bell



Thor Audiss expierencing Rilee Garett's painted self portaits.
Photo by Kat Bell

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Sean Spicer Shits on the Spotlight on DWTS

By KATY BARNS, Lifestyles columnist





Katy Barnes, Lifestyles Columnist

Sometimes famous people make mistakes, or sometimes they begin to fall into obscurity. Sometimes they want to have fun, and sometimes they are just the most recent star of "The Bachelor." If a celebrity falls into any of these categories, more often than not they will find themselves on "Dancing with the Stars."

"Dancing with the Stars" is a spin-off of the British television show "Simply Come Dancing" that airs on ABC at 8 p.m. on Monday nights. Led by hosts Tom Bergeron and Erin Andrews, it focuses on lesser known celebrities learning to dance. It also serves as a way to boost the careers of the people chosen to dance on the show.

This season started with the controversial news that Sean Spicer would be joining the cast of "Dancing with the Stars" after his run as the White House Press Secretary. In December 2016, he was appointed to the position, but only served for six months before resigning. In that time, he helped popularize the idea of "alternative facts" that have permeated the Trump presidency.

When he was announced to be on the show, it was met with lots of backlash from many sources, including Tom Bergeron. The host shared a statement in August 2019, stating that he'd hoped that this season of "Dancing with the Stars" would be free of politics and he was disheartened that the show had "gone in a different direction."

Many people online have responded as well with fears that by featuring Spicer, it normalizes his acts as Press Secretary. By showing him as a sympathetic person (as is the nature of the show) it may excuse lying to protect President Trump.

This is not the first controversy "Dancing with the Stars" has been a part of however. In 2016, Protesters stormed the dance stage following the first dance of Ryan Lochte, U.S. Olympic Swimmer. After he'd falsified a story where he was robbed in Brazil, he had hoped to rebuild his image through the program. He lasted until Week 8, finishing in seventh place and receiving a standing ovation.

Spicer has already made it farther than Lochte did, and it is not due to his untapped dancing talent. As of Monday, Nov. 4. The judges said that he doesn't "have many jazz bones in his body" and that "A mermaid has better feet" than Spicer. While they gave him his highest personal score of the season (20 out of 10) he still received the lowest score overall.

Many people have pointed to Breitbart for Spicer's success, including Spicer himself. In an interview with Breitbart, he thanked the conservative people for voting, claiming that by being on the show proves that conservatives are "human beings". This cycles back to the point of validating Spicer's previous actions.

In a spot on "The Daily Show with Trevor Noah," the titular host brought up a video of Spicer openly advocating for stacking the poles, telling people to both text the voting line and vote online for a maximum of twenty votes. In the past, "Dancing with the Stars" voting has mostly relied on an honor system basis – never has it been that the votes have been this rigged.

Even President Trump has thrown his support behind Spicer in an attempt to have him stay on the show. He has become a representative for Conservatives everywhere.

When should Christmas start? Verus opinion

By HARRISON NEVILLE and KATY BARNS

Katy - Now that Halloween is over, many people have decided that Christmas time is finally upon us. I am one of those people. The minute I step outside to dispose of my pumpkin, I return blaring "All I Want for Christmas Is You" as loud as my iPhone will let me. My tasteful autumnal wardrobe is shoved into storage as I unveil my delightfully tacky Christmas sweaters and everyone I meet receives a very Happy Holidays whether they want one or not. It's great.

Recently, however, it seems the world has started to push back on this idea. Slowly more and more people every year have decided that you should only celebrate Christmas during the "Christmas season" – aka Black Friday to Christmas Day. Well, I'm here to tell you why it's perfectly acceptable to celebrate Christmas whenever you want.

For one, Christmas is exciting. It is a holiday defined by brightness and cheer from the Red and Green décor to the light tinkling of bells everywhere you go. It brings on a sense of spontaneity to your life that makes every day fresh. It inspires you to think of little gifts to make for your friends or to join in on an impromptu holiday sing-a-long. It's a joy exclusive to the holiday season.

With the excitement of the season also comes a sense of familiarity. It's a time of year filled with tradition and childhood nostalgia. You know your favorite holiday movie will be on the Hallmark channel within the next few days and your favorite holiday song will be played on the radio sometime in the next hour. It's like travelling back to a less stressful time.

Lastly, perfecting the holiday feeling is the sense of hope that fills the season. Of course, the peppermint mochas and the parades are fun, but the true spirit of Christmas is to care for your fellow man. It is to be kind and to spread joy where ever you can. It is to take the warmth bred from positivity and share it with everyone.

To quote Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," "I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year." By keeping Christmas close you keep love close and I think that's of utmost importance, especially now. So next time you shame someone for their early celebrations, think twice and wish them a Happy Holiday instead.

Harrison- My personal favorite holiday has always been Christmas. I love gathering with family, celebrating the birth of Jesus, singing Christmas songs and finding gifts for friends and families. Part of what keeps the Holiday special is its brevity.

Not everyone realizes this and those individuals rush forward to begin putting up decorations and wearing Christmas sweaters as soon as Halloween is over. They don't understand that in their haste they are skewering the very spirit of Christmas.

The truth of the matter is that celebrating Christmas in the early days of November is nothing less than an affront to the holiday. It is a quickly growing trend that people have been pushing the boundaries of the acceptable time to celebrate Christmas and the true reason for this has nothing to do with holiday cheer and everything to do with making money.

Year after year we have all watched as stores have done their best to push Christmas surplus on us at an earlier rate. It's not as though the commercialization of Christmas is anything new or surprising. Indeed, there are numerous movies, which no doubt made decent sums of money in their own right, that speak out against the commercialization of the holiday.

In order to counter this, I refuse to participate in any Christmas related activities until after Thanksgiving. This includes listening to Christmas music and putting up decorations.

Some might call this "Grinch like" behavior, but I defy those who make such claims. As I stated earlier, I absolutely love Christmas, and I like to keep Christmas special and avoid supporting companies that just doing their best to make a quick buck.

Christmas is a magical time of year and that maddening sense of anticipation is a key part of what keeps it that way. The sooner that people start celebrating Christmas the more that magic bleeds away, until eventually there's nothing left but overpriced toys going on sale.

So, in order to keep the magic of Christmas alive I propose that we all rebel against the corporate overlords that have coopted our beloved holiday. Refuse to allow them to push their money grabbing agenda on us and we can reclaim Christmas for the people.

I know that there are those who say that the reason they celebrate Christmas early is because they believe in keeping the spirit of Christmas throughout the entire the year. I don't have a problem with this sentiment, and in fact I couldn't agree more.

I grew up frequently hearing from my grandmother that "Christmas is 365 days out of the year." So, my belief that the Christmas season should not be celebrated until after Thanksgiving does not mean that I believe that people shouldn't hold onto the Christmas spirit throughout the year.

It is simply that I believe that stores are attempting to co-opt that happy feeling that manifest itself during the holidays and use it to fuel their own corporate greed.

Katy's Rebuttal- Being aware of the Capitalistic nature of the holiday is important, but if that is the problem you have with Christmas then you clearly have forgotten the true meaning of Christmas. In your response you make not celebrating Christmas early feel like a form of protest, when in actuality the true form of protest would be to indulge in the spirit of the holiday.

I'm not getting paid to wish people a Merry Christmas before Thanksgiving; I just want to make people happy. I do love buying people gifts throughout the season, but I love making people gifts even more. As it stands, we students have been in classes for ten weeks straight – sometimes we need the extra boost in the home stretch.

Another one of your points focuses on the anticipation of the season – by celebrating the holiday early you claim it loses its magic. Again, I disagree.

As college students, we start finals preparation right as soon as we get back from Thanksgiving holiday. Between studying and packing, we have no time to celebrate the holiday with our friends – a celebration that for many is more important than the one spent with their family. As college students we have to celebrate Christmas early if we want to do it will our peers, and I think anyone will agree the celebrations you have here will be much different than the ones you have at home.



REANNA'S REALITY CHECK

By REANNA PIPES
LIFESTYLES COLUMNIST

Dear Reanna,

I am having trouble with one of my friends. I have been friends with this person since our freshman year and we are now juniors. I'd even go as far as to say that we are each other's best friends, or at least were.

Recently, I have been wanting to end our friendship completely. I find any excuse to not hang out or respond to their text messages, and I just try to avoid them in general.

Ever since they moved off campus, we just started to spend less and less time together, which I think started this.

But they recently got a new boyfriend and he is all they ever talk about. If I am talking about something that has absolutely nothing to do with him, they will turn the conversation back to their boyfriend.

This isn't their first boyfriend, which makes me wonder why they're being so clingy and obsessive. Before this boy, they had lots of interest and loved to talk about all different kinds of things, but now have become a very annoying person over the last year.

I want to end the friendship but I don't know how to. Because of how close we used to be I don't want to hurt their feelings. But I am also sure that I don't want to be friends. I know that if I met them today, I wouldn't want to ever be around them.

Please let me know what you think I should do in this situation.

Sincerely,
Finished With It Friend

Dear Finished,

Fighting with a friend is never a fun thing, and I hate that you are having to go through this, especially with your best friend.

You may have already tried this, but have you talked to your friend about the situation and their behavior? They might not be aware as to why you are pulling away, which can lead to you hurting their feelings even though you are not trying to.

Maybe your friend knows how they have changed and is not doing anything to fix or acknowledge it. If that's the case, I would take the time to think about how no longer being friends would affect your day to day life.

You could possibly talk to another friend of yours that you trust and ask them their opinion. It would help if they were familiar with the situation and your friend's personality change.

While it may feel horrible to end a friendship, that does not mean that it is a bad thing or you are a bad person for doing it. You have control over who you keep in your life and if you really feel that you do not want this person, then do not keep them around.

Whatever you decide, do not ghost your friend. At the end of the day, not only could that hurt their feelings, but it might leave some bad blood behind. If you decide to end the friendship then an adult conversation needs to be had, and you should be honest with them as to why you are doing what you're doing.

Close friendships sometimes can be a hard and complex thing to maintain, and when a problem arises it can sometimes feel like the best option is to just get rid of the whole relationship. Sometimes that is the best option and other times not. In the end, it is up to you and your personal feelings about what to do.

****Disclaimer*

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Submit your questions to *alabamian@montevallo.edu* for a chance to be featured in our next issue!

From the editors desk

By WAID JONES, Editor-in-chief

Book

"Catch and Kill" by Ronan Farrow. I'm only about a tenth of the way through the book, but I've been engrossed in the brilliant reporting and excellent storytelling that Farrow has shown. The book chronicles Farrows experience reporting on the decades long cover up of Harvey Weinstein's history of abuse and sexual misconduct. It remains engrossing from the start and weaves an interesting and engaging narrative throughout, while adding a significant amount of context to headlines.

TV/Podcast

Recently I've been watching HBO's interpretation of "Watchmen." Set in an alternate future that takes place after the movie and graphic novel, the show tries to start conversations on race, anonymity and remains unabashedly political. The show goes full force from the beginning starting, in a fictionalized, but all too real version of the Tulsa Race Riots in 1921.

The show then jumps to a future where squid randomly fall from the sky in interdimensional "attacks," police are constantly wearing masks and a white supremacy group is beginning to rise back to prominence. The show constantly leaves me wondering what exactly just happened and the podcast really helps with that feeling. The first episode just recently dropped and covers the first three episodes of the show.

Article

The New York Times published an article by Lindy West, a contributing opinion writer for the Times, called "'Clueless' and 'Saved by the Bell' Are How We Got Trump" in the opinion section. You can find the article online and I highly recommend it. In the article, West discusses how 90s pop culture impacted activism among millennials.

The writer makes the argument that a decade of belittling political activism neutered the ability and want

Movie

Clothing

I recently bought another pair of All Birds. I reviewed their Tree Runner last year, and this time I decided to buy their wool runners, the original version of the shoe that's made entirely from sheep's wool. The shoes are fantastically comfortable, and because I decided to follow the instructions of the company and sized up, alleviate all of the problems I had with my last pair.

Spotify PLAYLIST

By The ALABAMIAN STAFF

SPOOKY TUNES

Disturbia by Rihanna

This song is scary and ominous. The beat is sick. One time, as an edgy tween, I jumped so hard to this song on the trampoline that I had to go to the hospital. Rihanna and my scoliosis are both so real.

Teenagers – My Chemical Romance

MCR is back, and what better way to celebrate than remembering their hits? Nothing says teenager more than being that kid who hated their generation and MCR? They understood.

Pocket Full on Sunshine by Natasha Bedingfield

What memory hits you harder? When the song first came out in 2008 and we all actually thought we had pockets full of sunshine or in 2010 when Emma Stone resurrected our hearts, in the shower, with her mohawk?

Superbass by Nicki Minaj

I practiced this song for every middle school dance. If you couldn't nail every line, you were certifiably uncool. At least in my book.

Thriftshop by Macklemore and Ryan Lewis and Wan

From the beginning of this song you know what year it is, and how big Macklemore made thrift shopping, Wanz's deep voice makes the track even better.

Misery Business by Paramoreters

Middle school me couldn't stop listening to that song. While bopping along to this song I felt like someone got me and it made my life so much better.

Boyfriend by Big Time Rush

Did anybody else write fanfiction surrounding this song or was that just me? Okay cool.

Fireflies by owl city

My favorite memory of this song is asking my dad if we could listen to it in the car and he deadpan looked at me and says "I liked owl city before you kids took them over." Nothing else was said. He just kept driving. I didn't get to listen to the song.

Check Yes Juliet by We The Kings

Who else drew on their converse with multicolored sharpies while listening to this song?

Airplanes (Feat. Hayley Williams) by B.o.B.

If God tracked my history on this planet, the terrain would run deep around this song. Every awful moment in my childhood feels like it was accented by this song and my place in the backseat of a Ford Taurus.

Horoscopes

By PEYTON LANG

Aries ♈ Be patient with your endeavors this week, Aries! While you might be determined to complete duties, remember not to lose your temper and stay grounded. With hard work, you can overcome any task!

Taurus ♉ Your intuition is clear, which is very helpful when it comes to your relationships! Work on building a solid, sturdy foundation to build collaborations. This is a great reminder that relationships are double-sided and require work from both ends.

Gemini ♊ Your ruling planet, Mercury, is in retrograde! Just a reminder not to sign anything important or make life changing decisions! Ask for what you want and be clear with your intentions. You might find communicating your needs a little difficult, but no worries! It's just the retrograde.

Cancer ♋ Create and collaborate! This week, you might find yourself working on plans or projects that you've been trying to accomplish for a while. Let the creativity flow and watch your ideas turn into magic!

Leo ♌ Even if you seem to be in a hurry, remind yourself that you really aren't. Give yourself time and no outer pressure will slow you down. There is no opinion that is more relevant than your own. Your body knows best, Leo!

Virgo ♍ If you don't see someone as trustworthy, hold your secrets close! Don't jump out of your skin to prove your own heart wrong. There is a reason why certain interactions make you act the way you do, and self judgment can only hurt you.

Libra ♎ If the current state of your love life could use a little tweaking, don't hesitate! Assess things from a calm, clear perspective. If your heart wants more, it's up to you to let your partner know. They're not mind readers!

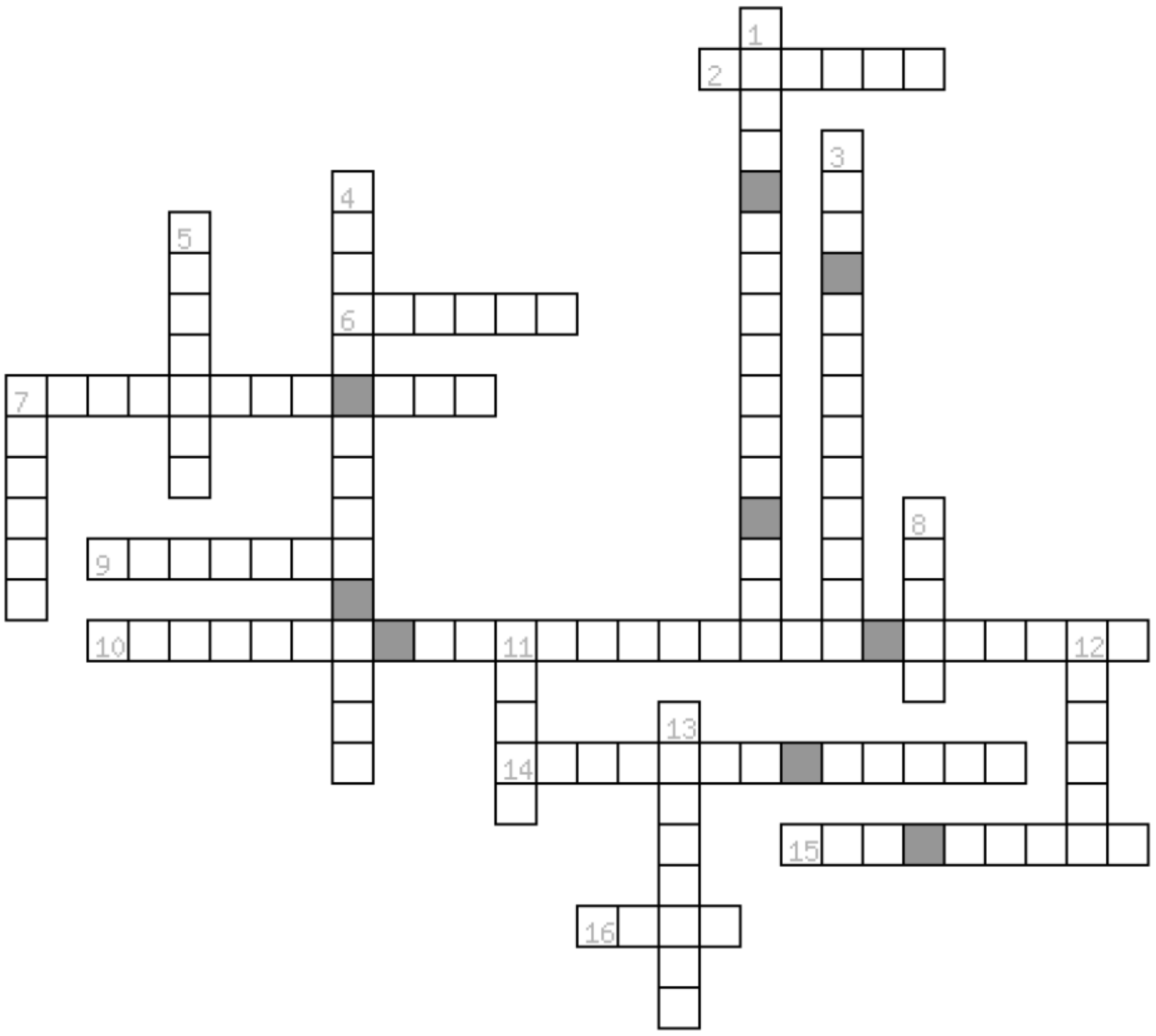
Scorpio ♏ Be present, Scorpio! You might be feeling hesitant about some choices that you've already made. You don't have to stay loyal to your own decisions and having the flexibility to do so is freeing! Stay grounded and find joy in the moment.

Sagittarius ♐ If an argument arises with a friend, it might be due to your differences whether it's morals or beliefs. Sometimes, the best thing to do is to agree to disagree. Being right isn't always the most important thing. Don't spoil a good relationship!

Aquarius ♒ Give yourself a moment to catch your breath. If you're feeling anxious or nervous, take a step back. Conflict isn't always the direct route to a solution. Don't let yourself be pulled and pushed around by those who surround you. Your peers situation doesn't have to be your situation.

Pisces ♓ Conflict is around the corner for you too, Pisces. If you've had trouble weighing you down for quite some time now, it might be time to tackle it head-on. You get the choice on how to handle this one. If things aren't healthy and you're not afraid of the outcome, it might not be all that harmful to be a little confrontational!

Capricorn ♑ You're known for your power, Cap! This can be a good thing until it's not. If you have a run-in with someone of authority, it's up to you to decide how to handle it. If you're worried about the consequences, then a showdown is probably not the way to go!



Down

1. Our Fearless Leader
3. Our bi-weekly student newspaper
4. New book written by Montevallo faculty member
5. Our favorite giant purple bird
7. Home of the SGA and the Career Development Center
8. Hidden around campus during the week of Founders' Day
11. Don't DRAW a blank on the name of this building
12. The ghost that haunts Main Hall
13. Go here if you want to see a show

Across

2. You can COUNT on this building if you're interested in a business degree
6. One of Montevallo's colors, represented by a cow
7. Annual celebration part of which involves the seniors donning their academic robes for the first time
9. What do you call a collage of pictures?
10. The office behind the post office?
14. Montevallo's homecoming tradition
15. Our yearly publication where students can submit their own writing and art
16. One of Montevallo's colors, represented by a lion

Photopage

Photos by ARIEL HALL, Lifestyles editor



Above: Delta Gamma lipsyinking to Kelly Clarkson's greatest hits.



Above: Lambda Chi holds up an acorn in recognition of Alpha Gamma Delta during their performance.



Above: The girls of Chi Omega show off their moves.



Above: AKL dances to Kesha during Lip Jam.



Above: Phi Mu dances to Demi Levato.



Above: ADPi strikes a pose during Ariana Grande medley.



Above: Alpha Gamma Delta closes out the night with a final performance.



Above: Terrance Boykin (Kappa Alpha Psi) and Cameron Taylor bust a move.



Above: Alpha Tau Omega performes to Rihanna on stage.

The Alabamian

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Human Trafficking, should we be worried?

By JAMIE BROWDER, Managing editior of content



The Junior League of Birmingham estimated that human traffickers are making $250 - $275k per victim each year. Birmingham is a prime hub for human trafficking and drug trade because of the I-20 corridor, which connects Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia.

Forty percent of human trafficking takes place in the South East US and I-20 is one of the nation's most active corridors where victims are sold at various stops, according to WellHouse, a human trafficking hotline.

The Bringing the Exploitation of Alabama Minors Program estimated that 5,000 people are being human trafficked through Alabama each month.

Claims of traffickers began to circulate on campus during early November due to a Facebook post shared by Courtney Reynolds. In the post he shared how he saw two suspicious vehicles in the Davis Hall parking lot. This post was shared across various social media platforms, mainly Snapchat.

Timothy Alexander, UMPD's chief of police, confirmed that while student's concerns regarding human traffickers being on campus are legitimate, there has been no proven activity.

"I don't want to minimize anyone's concerns by labeling it a rumor, because rumors are something that may have some sort of untruth or are not weighted," said Alexander. "This is a concern that's weighted, not just because it's legitimate to the University or to universities, but it's legitimate across the nation. This is a concern we have all of the time of young people being abducted. We do believe that sex trafficking is very serious and very real."

These reports started circulating just weeks after an Auburn student, Aniah Haley Blanchard, was reported missing. She still has not been found.

Most of the claims being circulated have centered around Davis hall, which is where a series of car break ins have occurred. However, Alexander labeled these as "crimes of opportunity" because a majority of them had been left unlocked.

"Please lock your doors," urged Alexander.

To make things safer on campus, Alexander is hoping that communication with the UM community will improve. He urges all student, faculty and staff to say something if they see something. He wants UMPD to be in the forefront of people's mind if someone feels uncomfortable.

UMPD offers a shuttle service that will transport students from one place to another if they feel unsafe. Chief Alexander explained that students will never be asked to justify their reasoning for feeling unsafe to any of UMPD's officers.

"If you feel the need to call us, that's justification enough. If something is not right, you have been given five senses for a reason," expressed Alexander. "If you're in a situation where you feel uncomfortable, you should not hesitate or worry about calling us for no reason. If you have that feeling, then you should have already dialed the number."

Human trafficking, according to Alexander, is something that the police department is taking very seriously and are looking into all reports called into the department.

UMPD investigates every tip that they receive, and so far they have not found any evidence to indicate human trafficking is taking place on campus. However, Alexander doesn't believe this should take away any of the validity of concerns about human trafficking.

He urges students to stay aware of their surroundings and realize that we all have a duty to keep each other safe.

Human trafficking doesn't just manifest itself as people being taken. Usually it starts with someone trying to make a personal connection with you, according to Alexander. More often than not, people get sucked into a cycle of bribery that involves being exploited over compromising photos or videos.

Lighting, especially around Davis Hall, is one of UM's biggest issues that lends itself to nighttime crime.

"It is a serious issue that we are progressively trying to address because we do need more lighting," said Alexander.

He also explained that students are not the only ones complaining of the lighting issues, other officers, staff and faculty have also voiced their concerns. Most of the reasoning why it's an issue to get more lighting on campus is due to the structure of the ground and bricks.

The safety of locking down residence halls is another issue that UMPD is currently trying to tackle. The problems stems from residents leaving doors open for others.

"If you see a door or window that's propped open, close it. Those small things left undone lead to bigger problems."

Madison Hollon, UM's SGA vice president, shared that she hopes to spread more information about human trafficking by creating an awareness campaign.

Safety tips:

Have your friends on the phone with you if you're alone
Share your location with your friends
Don't travel alone
Call campus police if you see or experience anything suspicious
Always check your backseat before driving anywhere
Don't drink around people you don't know

SGA senate meeting recap: Nov. 20

By HARRSION NEVILLE, SAVANNAH DODSON, JOSEPH WILLIAMS



Harrison Neville, SGA Columnist



Madison Hollon, SGA Vice President conducting business during Nov. 13 meeting. Photo by Harriosn Neville

Over the past three meetings, SGA discussed several ways to improve campus life for students.

A report was given on the University Sustainability Committee meeting by Madison Hollon, SGA Vice President. The Committee plans to partner with the Depatment of Family and Consumer Sciences Student Group to host an event for students to make sustainable toiletries like soap, and learn to mend clothes.

The Committee also would like to work with city to improve lighting on King Street both to encourage walking and to promote safety.

For Executive Officer reports, Dakota Patrick, Director of Social Services, reported that there were 26 donations made for the blood drive and two platelets. According to Patrick, each donation of blood can save three lives, and including the previous blood drive, this would be 222 potential lives saved.

Olivia Eldridge, SGA president, reported that she and Thomas Dillard, Student Trustee, would be meeting with Dr. Stewart, UM President, to discuss campus safety.

The Students Rights and Interests Committee is still working to get hand sanitizers installed in Davis.

The Campus Life Committee says it will work to improve issues with labeling of food allergens in the caf.

A large concern for both the Campus life Committee and the Executive Cabinet was campus safety. Campus Life said that they are working to improve lighting around campus, would like to have campaign to promote campus safety and would also like to see increased patrols by campus police.

Hollon said that the Executive Cabinet discussed providing keychain lights for students and suggested that someone could turn it into a bill.

The Academic Affairs Committee is working on a technology bill to have iPads placed in the caf, library and another currently undecided location. The purpose of the iPads would be to replace paper constituent reports and make it easier for students to share their concerns with the SGA.

The Senate passed three bills. The first, Bill: 1920-B-034, was to purchase a chair cart and table cart for the Student Retreat Center.

The second bill was Bill: 1920-B-035, which used SGA funds to purchase replacement tiny pencils for the Student Life Office. In the last Senate meeting, concerns had been raised about whether mechanical pencils were the best option for concerns over both the cost and environmental impact.

The committee said that they polled students and found that students preferred mechanical pencils to wooden ones.

The final bill was to purchase and place a heavy bag in the SAC. The Senate voted to suspend the rules and vote immediately on the bill. All three bills were passed unopposed.

The total cost of the new heavy bag will be $295.89. The cost for the Student Retreat Bill was $558.98 and the cost for the Tiny Pencils Bill was $2,267.98, which was split between Senate and Executive budget.

The Senate swore in the new Fine Arts Senator, Austin Frederick and a new Adult Returning Senator, Cassandra Swanson.

The University Food Advisory Committee will meet on Friday, Nov. 22.

The Freshman Forum Christmas Extravaganza will be held in the Student Retreat Center on Dec. 3, and UPC will host Midnight Breakfast in the caf on Dec 8.

NEWS *in* BRIEF

By WESLEY HYDE

Disney Plus Releases

On Nov. 12 Disney released the highly anticipated Disney plus.

Disney plus is the company's new live streaming service comparable to other services such as: Netflix and HBO NOW. Of course, the service carries Disney's original films and shows, as well as installments from their acquired properties like Marvel and "Star Wars."

The company announced that during the first day of its launch the service saw more than ten million subscribers. The service's subscription is set at $6.99 a month or a combined subscription with Hulu and ESPN for $12.99 a month.

Venice Italy Floods

Thursday Nov. 14 the Italian government declared a state of emergency for the City of Venice after near record high flooding.

The flooding began Tuesday and hit the city's highest flood waters since 1966 at 6 feet and 2 inches above sea level though the city floods every year. Reports say that city which is made up of over 100 islands has suffered a large amount of damages.

The Italian government has settled to provide roughly twenty million euros for damages and to help support residents as well.

A project named Mose which was started to combat Venice's flooding is still struggling to meet deadlines due to multiple corruption scandals.

Hong Kong protests escalate

Early Nov. 18 the pro-democracy protests that had been steadily occurring for roughly six months in Hong Kong in opposition to the Chinese government had a sharp escalation.

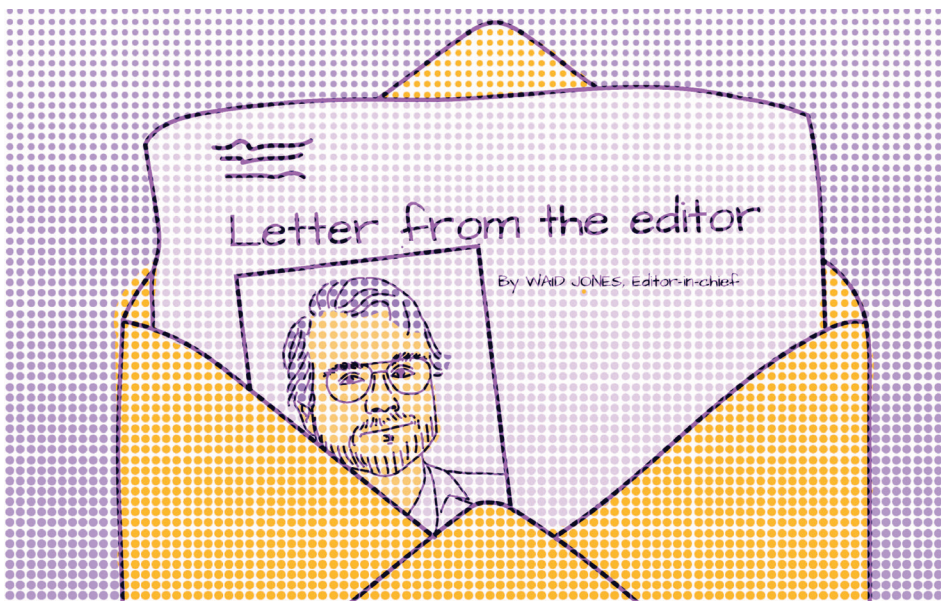
Protestors set fire to the entrance of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University where protesters hid from police to keep them out. Police had also threated the protesters with the use of live rounds after reports of protesters using lethal means of repelling police such as petrol bombs, and bows which police report an officer being struck with an arrow.

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Viewpoints



Letter from the Editor

It's been a long semester and it is almost over. To be perfectly honest mothing ever closer and closer to graduation both scares me and really excites me. I'm getting to the point where I'm not met with existential dread every time the subject comes up (though I still think that professors and parents should be banned from asking seniors what they're going to do after graduation as it's just rude).

It's beginning to be time that seniors need to think about what legacy they are leaving behind. That while this question is hard, it's also really important.

Unfortunately, I read a lot of obituaries for one of my jobs. I look at how people are remembered by their family members and those who write about them and I've also been on a recent kick of reading biographies and memoirs by and about semi-famous people. Because of this, I have developed an unusually close relationship to legacies.

They can haunt us. Like specters in the night that keep us awake and inspire our existential dread, they continually lurk just out of sight but rarely out of mind. Our involvement in student organizations that used to keep us from getting sleep because of the work has transitioned into worrying what will happen next, when we really just need to stop.

Stop and take a breath, take a moment away from everything and go on a hike. Just look at the legacy of other things, the world around us is full of people worrying about how they're being viewed or how they are leaving the world. While, it's good to keep this in mind, I doubt that many past leaders were able to lead thinking only about how they will be written about.

Without first focusing on the here and now, the future is irrelevant.

I'd rather be remembered for the cool things I did because I was present and, in the moment, than I would for doing something that in all reality had no impact on the world. Think and plan ahead but it's important to never lose sight of the here and now as this is what you'll remember forever.

The big achievements aren't important in the long run, as no one remembers the big things, but everyone remembers the connections that they've made in college. The small stories are more important than the big ones and are what your legacy is really made out of.

These relationships that we're building now are our real legacies. Be outgoing find that new person and don't forget about the people who have been with you for the last three to five years. They're important and you can never lose sight of that.

While I'm looking forward to the next year of the paper and my life, I realize that it'll be the first one in a while without it. I know thought that the people who I made it with will still be in my life though. I found a home in the newspaper and love the people who make it up, they're my family at UM and that's more valuable than any award or honor that you can receive. Their friendship will remain more special than any plaque collecting dust in my attic.

So, if you're a senior remember that cherish those friends.

If you're a freshman I hope you find that home and that place where you belong.

In this issue, we talk about some really heavy topics. On the front page is an article about human trafficking, but inside is some amazing content talking about Disney's new streaming service, and work by students. Check it out, read it, and enjoy.

As always if you have an opinion, a story or are still looking for the place on campus that you belong you can reach out through social or email us at alabamian@montevallo.edu I promise that someone checks the email.



Earlier this year, Govenor Kay Ivey signed in a law, under which universities are prohibited from establishing "free speech zones."

This means that Alabama's public universities, including the University of Montevallo, are required to adopt policies that allow students to freely express their opinions on controversial issues.

While the legislation limits university officials' ability to silence students, it can only do so much.

The most recent example is this past month, the Student Government Association at the University of Alabama told football fans to "behave" during Trump's visit to Tuscaloosa.

"Any organizations that engage in disruptive behavior during the game will be removed from block seating instantly for the remainder of the season," said a letter addressed to the student body from Jason Rothfarb, vice president of student affairs.

There are so many issues with this instance. What's considered disruptive? Who decides someone's crossed a line? Beyond some logistical issues, the fact of that specific situation was that UA's officials weren't trying to hush students. It was fellow students, though some may disagree with this assessment of the letter's intentions.

As big as the University of Alabama is, if a group of students wanted to quiet others here at the University of Montevallo, what's to stop them?

Montevallo is a largely liberal campus, and so, if a group of conservative students were to plan an event, like a protest, what's to stop other students from oppressing them? Oppressing any kind of group doesn't even have to involve an altercation; it's the fear of consequences that stops people from speaking up.

It's a good thing that it is no longer acceptable to speak in a frankly sexist, racist or homophobic manner. However, whenever it comes to speaking against the norm, there are some social consequences that come from speaking openly. Challenging the status quo comes with its own consequences and for a college student, the pressure to succeed is so great because the cost of failure, perceived or real, is so high.

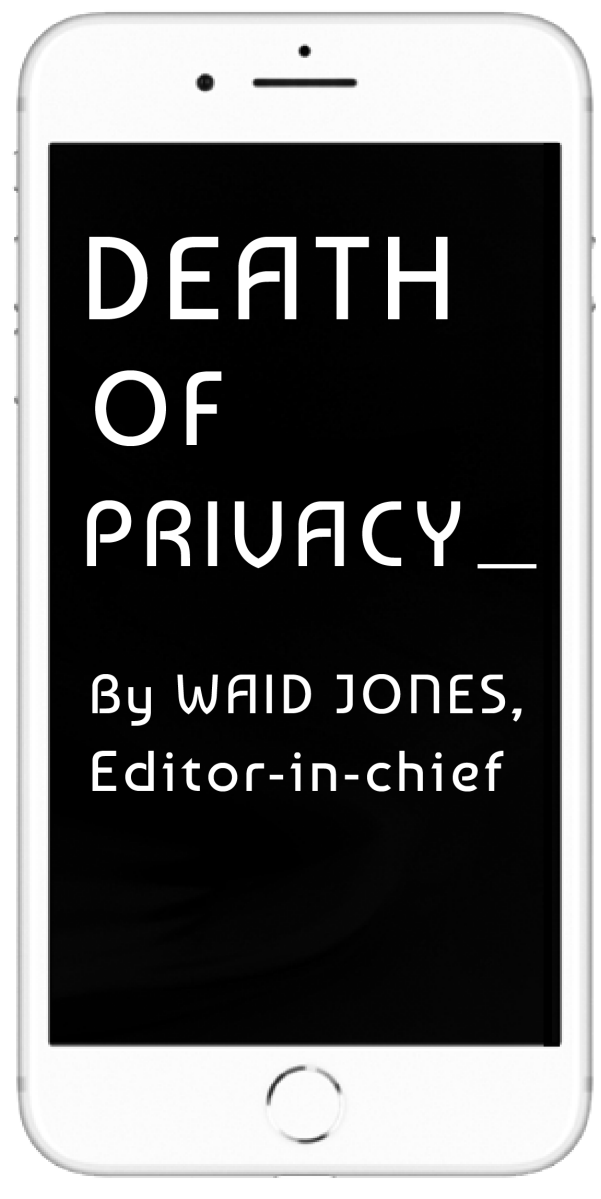
In my opinion, I think that this law has noble intentions. Ivey wants to protect free speech on campuses. But why is free speech important to higher education anyways?

As a future journalist, my livelihood is going to depend on what other people have to say, but that isn't the case for everyone.

Universities are a natural place for discussion and debate. Far from being an "echo chamber," college is often the most diverse place -- racially, politically, economically -- many students have or will ever encounter. Since coming to college, I've met some of the greatest people I've ever met and knowing their stories has made me a better person and a better writer.

We are here to get our education, but I think that's more than a piece of paper that we get at the end of our four years on campus. College is just as much about becoming critical thinkers with our own ideas of the world.

SUBMIT NEWS TIPS TO *alabamian@montevallo.edu*



Despite years of being told I shouldn't I sign into almost everything with the same password, the last four digits of an ex's phone number is still my phone pin and much of my computer remembers most of my passwords for me.

It's just easy.

That's the problem, though. It's easy to give up security and privacy for convenience.

Google was recently criticized for making a smart phone whose facial recognition was deemed unsecure and raised numerous concerns among journalists and security researchers alike. The phone boasted the fasted face unlock technology of any smart phone, but also didn't check to make sure the person who was using it was awake or actually looking at the phone.

The general public loved it. This speed and usefulness of our devices is something that we have come to be used to. It's comfortable and the minute seconds that we can shave off of our everyday life is better.

I'm no stranger to this, as I've looked for more and more ways to avoid actually having to type in passwords. I leave a lot of my accounts permanently signed in just hoping that no one manages to break into my laptop, apartment or even the student publications office. Our lives are stored on devices the size of our palms and we rarely stop to think about who's watching.

Every major maker of a voice assistant (Google, Amazon and Apple) have gotten in trouble recently for storing user data, conversations and intimate moments of people who use their services. The companies, once caught, deleted the information and assured users that it wasn't attached to their information.

Realistically, this amounted to a half-hearted apology by company's who didn't have their services adoption rates change at all. Nothing REALLY changed. These screw ups and privacy violations haven't hurt their brand images or their stock prices. This hasn't even turned the dial of privacy legislation or regulation by the companies a little.

Apple is now running an advertisement that touts their focus on privacy and the security of the data who use their phones. They go so far as to end the commercial with an apple logo shown as a lock. I find it hard to think that the company has made such a drastic shift in such a short amount of time, even though their record has been pretty solid on privacy up until now.

On the other hand, Facebook has been profiting on the sale of user data to advertiser for years and remains the company's primary source of revenue. Their recent product launches of the Portal, a screen with a camera that aims to connect user through video chat more easily, feels like just another product aimed at collecting user data.

This goes so far that even Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook's CEO, won't put one in his home. Zuckerberg is also known for placing tape on the webcam of his personal computer. So, if the CEO of Facebook doesn't trust that people aren't watching him through his computer, how can he expect us to not think Facebook's watching?

All of this comes down to tech companies asking for data that their own CEOs aren't willing to give them. So how are we supposed to feel when they say they're not collecting or storing data?

Are we expected to start filtering through privacy agreements to find the one we like? Is the differentiating feature between an android and an iPhone going to become who's taking more of your data and selling it to a third party?

Apple's ad seems to think so.

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Art department invites alum for guest lecture

By ARIEL HALL, Lifestlyes editor

The Art Department invites artists and art historians to deliver lectures as a part of the Martha Allen Lecture Series. According to assistant art professor, Dr. Catherine Walsh, the department was especially excited to welcome Craigger Browne to be a part of this series.

Browne's lecture was entitled "From Miracles to Mockingbirds: Spirituality in Art" and was held on Thursday, Nov. 14 in Comer Auditorium.

After graduating from Vestavia Hills High School, Browne received his BFA from the University of Montevallo in 1991. Since, he has studied abroad at the Cleveland Institute of the Arts in Lacoste, France. He also worked and studied at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice, Italy.

"When I started carving stone [in Lacoste], I just immediately fell in love with it," said Browne. "Fifteen minutes in, I knew that's what I wanted to do for the rest of my life."

Browne then moved to Carrara, Italy to work at Studio Nicoli. Carrara is the one of the only sources in the world for quality white marble, and the other is Sylacauga, Alabama.

"Art is about communication. You have to know your audience and have to keep them in mind," said Browne. "You have to learn the craft. Then the creativity part comes after you master the craft."

His work can be found in public, corporate and private collections on five of the seven continents. Some of his more local works include "Madonna and Child" at St. Marks Catholic Church in Birmingham and "Nostra Luna" at the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, both of which Browne discussed during his lecture.

During his lecture, Browne described and showed pictures of his creative process when approaching different projects.

"What I loved about stone when I first started was that it was a total reversal of everything I'd ever done. From drawing to painting, it was 'you start with nothing and you build'," said Browne. "This really was destruction for creation."

One of Browne's favorite projects revolved around the story of Helen Keller and her lifelong companion and teacher, Anne Sullivan.

"I try to capture an emotion, because that's something as human beings, we all have the same core basic emotions. In that moment, I was trying to capture joy," he said.

"With Helen Keller, the joy of being in complete darkness and not being able to communicate with the world and suddenly being enlightened," said Browne. "With Anne Sullivan, I tried to capture the joy of how a lot of these professors feel when they see the lightbulb come on with y'all."

After completion, the piece was named "The Warmth of Enlightenment", and was moved to Ivy Green in Tuscumbia, Alabama.

Browne now resides in Sylacauga where he exclusively works with Alabama's stone. He also continues to be a part of the Sylacauga Marble Festival every spring.

"It was meaningful for the students to hear from an Art Department alum and to learn about his journey since graduating from Montevallo," said Walsh. "During his lecture, Mr. Browne gave us a fascinating, behind-the-scenes look into the process of creating large-scale public sculptures and into the day-to-day life of a professional artist."

Montevallo mayor hosts coffee and conversation for UM students

By JAMIE BROWDER, managing editor of content



Montevallo mayor, Dr. Holly Cost, dicussing entertainment options with UM students and Chamber of Commerse members.

On Nov. 14 Montevallo Mayor Hollie Cost shared coffee and spoke with students at C's Cakes and Coffee House. She has hosted similar events in the past, but this was the first directly intended for students.

"I just want students to feel like this is their home and they are true citizens of the City of Montevallo. This is not just their home away from home," expressed Cost. "I want it to be their home and adopt it when they can. I want them to feel like part of their heart is here."

She began the night by talking to students one-on-one about changes they would like to see to the community. Later, she held a round table for everyone to discuss their ideas.

Thomas Eremus proposed that Montevallo should add outdoor exercise equipment around the playground at Orr Park. He cited that this change would promote both healthier living and it would be accessible to the entire community without charge.

"She's somebody who I can talk to about getting outdoor fitness equipment here. I wanted to get the ball rolling," said Eremus.

Cost agreed with Thomas and offered that if he could provide research and write grant proposals, she would try to help make his initiative happen. He is looking forward to working with the mayor to implement his idea

Lora Briscoe came to the event to express her concern about campus safety because her car was broken into.

"I had a concern about the break ins that have been going on on campus. I just wanted to know what they're doing about it, which is why I wanted to talk to Mayor Cost," said Briscoe. "If I'm going to live here, I want to feel safe. I want to feel like my voice matters and people are actually listening to me."

Cost assured Briscoe that although she wasn't the most informed on the issue, city police knew what was going on and were looking into the issue. Cost told Briscoe she meets with city police weekly and was looking forward to discussing the problem.

After their discussion, Briscoe shared that she felt relieved and knows that the mayor means she will actually take care of it.

Students also discussed with Cost about the lack of entertainment options, which is why they believe that people leave campus during the weekends. After the close of Eclipse, they shared it has been hard to find a social setting go-to.

"As I've been looking out on main street, there are a lot of things that have been trying to get Eclipse, but miss. I'm tired of driving to Alabaster every time I want to do something. I'd love to be able to just park my car on campus and stay here," shared Emily Horne.

Horne said she would like to see a theater or a bookstore come to Montevallo.

Another reason that students shared that people are leaving is due to the fact that everything in Montevallo closes relatively early.

Mayor Cost expressed interest in starting a drive-in theater and the possibility of opening up a Japanese restaurant.

"I got some awesome ideas and I feel like it motivated me to want to do more and get out there and talk to students more about what they want and not wait for them to come to my office," said Cost.

"We thought it would be a great opportunity for people to come out to talk to Holly. It was geared toward the University, which is a good thing for them to come out and speak on their issues," said Adele Nelson, the ambassador director of the Montevallo Chamber.

Ashlie Lodge and Christa Kimbrough BFA show

By JAY BEND

On Nov. 10, the seniors held their second BFA Exhibition in the Gallery of Bloch Hall.

One of the artists featured was Ashlie Lodge. Distorted Perceptive was her leading theme.

Being led by her inspiration of the inventive ways of Rebecca Smith as well as the philosophy of Ayn Rand, she took the phrase "New Media" to the next level.

Lodges art was presented as a combination digital animation and projected imagery. Each piece of art portrayed a form of perspective that, at first glance was unnoticeable. In each animated simulation, humanoid figures were interacting with things that, on the surface, seemed quite normal then revealing that sometimes things can be much more complex than they are perceived to be.

Her process started with her and Dr. Forrester contemplating the idea of objectivity and how it helps to prevent misunderstanding along with having a life with less regrets.

"Then I went on to do my own research. My animation came first and then the idea of how to distort what is seen."

"A different perspective." Lodge answered , when asked what she wanted people to take from her art.

"People are blinded by what they believe is reality and cause more harm than good, even in the name of social justice."

According to Lodge, she would rather people see that there aren't simply two sides to a coin.

"If even for a moment someone else can stop and reconsider what they think something is and try to see it for what it truly is then I've accomplished my desires."

Her love for art started with her father. She became a beacon for her father's vision and love of art to shine through.

"Now art is something we can express and do together. In a way I'm justifying my love for cartoons and helping him live his dream of being an artist."

The art of animation is one that is slowly becoming prominent and accepted within the art community. Thankfully, we have artists such as Lodge that continue to push the ideas of perception and what exactly art is.

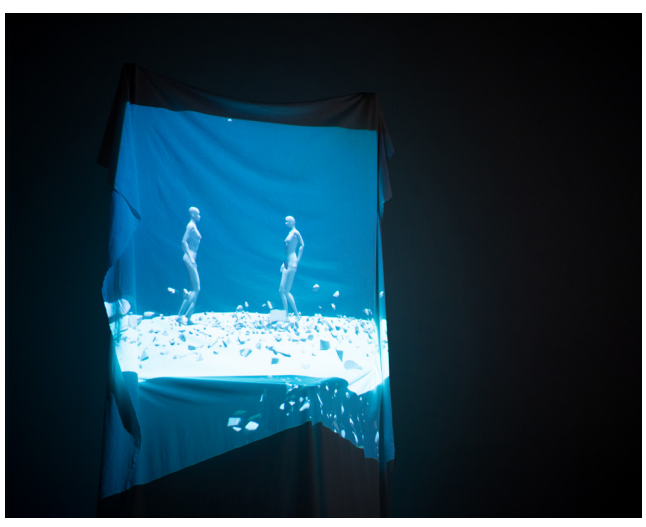
If you are interested in seeing more of our seniors and their art, unfortunately, this show marks the end of the BFA exhibitions for this semester. However, they will pick back up with all new artists next semester.



Three of Christa Kimbrough's instaltions in the Block gallery. Photo by Kat Bell



More of Kimbrough's instillation. Photo by Kat Bell



One of Ashlie Lodge's digital aminations in the Block gallery. Photo by Kat Bell

Faculty Senate seeting recap

By ARIEL HALL

On Friday, Nov. 8, UM's Faculty Senate held an open meeting to discuss issues concerning everyone at the University.

After the meeting was called to order, the meeting began with a report from Deborah Braswell, director of Disability Support Services.

Her report included different demographical statistics. For example, of the students who work with DSS, 8% are graduate students. In terms of percent of students per college, there has been an increase of students registered within the College of Fine Arts.

Braswell also noted that DSS is currently working with IS&T to move toward online accommodation system and was looking for input from professors.

President of Faculty Senate, Dr. Tiffany Wang, then called for approval of the minutes from their last meeting.

Wang, professor of communication studies at the University, first gave a brief oral report about the executive cabinet retreat where President John Stewart requested each member identify the three things are priorities within their positions.

Following, Wang also gave a brief overview of the Executive Cabinet meeting and the Board of Trustees meeting.

"IS&T has made some progress towards targeted email lists, which I know came up last meeting. It has now cleared Digital Communications Committee and is now in the implementation stage," said Wang.

Targeted email lists would allow professors to not only send a batch email to students within their own major, but can also send a batch email to other majors. For example, Wang described, targeted emails would allow her to contact all COMS majors but she could also contact music majors if a COMS event crossed over with music.

Wang also noted personnel changes in Student Life and Career Center. She also mentioned the approved capital projects and new policies were available upon request.

From the liasion reports, Emily Gill, associate professor of theatre, shared that Amanda Fox from the University of Montevallo's registrar is drafting a certificate policy. Gill also mentioned the New Attendance After Non-Payment Policy was approved and will go into the bulletin after finalization.

Lolita Kincade, assistant professor of FCS, wanted to inform the faculty about advisor equity and that there are 20 advisors on campus above the maximum thirty advisees.

Dr. Ray Ozley, assistant professor of communication studies, then followed with a report from the Ad Hoc Committee and discussed course evaluations.

"One person asked whether we needed to move to a peer review system rather than a student review system," said Ozley. "That lead to the question, are our evaluations focused on course evaluations or simply just professor evaluations?"

After reviewing updates from old business, Wang then introduced new business, starting with the academic calendar for Spring 2021.

"The calendar options break down into four possible drafts. The first option keeps it exactly the same," said Wang. "Draft one adds a no class day the Thursday of College night week, so they'd have Thursday and Friday off. Draft two adds a no-class day the Friday before spring break."

"Draft three does both of those, so it gives both the Thursday back before college night and Friday before spring break. Draft four is the one that would impact probably the semester the least. It would take the last two days off the semester and makes them reading days."

Wang also presented a couple different drafts regarding variations of class times.

The Senate opted to table the calendar discussion and get feedback from constituents before their next meeting where they'd vote on the issue.

Of the topics discussed, the Senate also discussed the Free Speech Act. Recently, the state has passed a law requiring public universities to develop policies that protect free speech on campuses.

An early draft of the University's policy was circulated during the Senate's last meeting, but was readdressed. The language of the University of Montevallo Expression and Demonstration policy was lifted from state law, according to Wang. However, the several professors agreed that the policy still needed improvement, especially when it comes to clarification.

Faculty Senate will reconvene on Jan. 10 to vote on these issues.

Green Fund Award lends itself to teaching opportunity

By JAMIE BROWDER AND HARRISON NEVILLE

The Green Fund Award announced its winners at the beginning of November.

The award is given out both in the fall and spring, and the awards, in total, usually amount to $15,000 to $20,000 each semester, though amounts do vary. The grant allows staff, faculty and students to assess UM and decide what could be implemented to make the campus a better environment.

This semester was Dr. Sally Hardig's, professor of communication, first time participating, and she used the opportunity to teach her students about grant writing.

"I opened it up to them as a project in the class to teach them how to do grant writing, and to get them involved in opportunities on campus that are initiatives that can teach them things they can do in a class that would be applicable in the real world," said Hardig.

Her students conceptualized four projects but only submitted three; however, she is looking to submit the fourth project in the spring when it is more developed.

One of their proposed projects involved installing a bike rack for Strong Hall. Hardig shared that they chose this to solve parking issues, make Strong more accessible for bikers and they hope that in the future it will promote Vallocycle.

"I wanted to ride my bike to school, but wasn't able to because of the lack of places to secure my bike," said Anna Farley, one of the students involved in the project.

Not only do students believe it will make Strong more easily accessible, it will also promote a greener lifestyle.

"I believe that promoting biking on campus is important as it encourages students to prioritize health, and care about the environment," said Farley.

Another development that the Green Fund will bring to Strong Hall, proposed by Hardig and her students, will be further development of the plants around the building with the Strong Hall Native Plant Beautification & Habitation Project.

"It's pretty bland outside," expressed Hardig.

The only recent development to the environment of Strong Hall was a tree, which was planted by a few communication studies seniors a couple of years ago.

Even though there are a few plants around Strong, they're not native species. This led to Hardig and her class discussing the importance of using native species in landscaping.

"We hope this project inspires more people to incorporate native species in the future," explained Ellie Fullbright, another one of Hardig's students.

The third and final initiative that Hardig and her students put forth was an education project.

They plan to buy a plot in the University garden and put together an event for students. This event will be held in the spring and will teach students how to do their own planting for kitchen gardens.

Once the event is finished, the group will donate that plot to the Environmental Studies Club so it can be used for University students to grow whatever they'd like.

"This way there is room for anyone to plant and grow what their heart desires close to campus inexpensively," said Lily Cooper.



What to know about trans awareness week

By ARIEL HALL, Lifestyles editor

Transgender Awareness Week is a week leading up to Nov. 20, when transgender people and their allies can bring attention and address issues that the community faces.

The week ends with Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) on Nov. 20, which was founded as a vigil to honor Rita Hester, a transgender woman and advocate who was killed in 1998.

Now, it is held every year to honor the memory of the transgender people who lost their lives in acts of anti-transgender violence.

Why is Transgender Awareness Week important?

The week is filled with the community and their allies coming forward to educate the public about who transgender people are through sharing stories and experiences.

While increased visibility and awareness has made progress, the struggle against prejudice, discrimination and violence that affect the transgender community isn't over.

According to the Human Rights Campaign, in 2018, at least 26 deaths of transgender and gender non-conforming people in the US occurred, most of which were against black transgender women.

What can you do?

No matter your identity, there are still things you can do to be an ally to the transgender community.

There are so many possibilities: go to local pro-transgender and LGBTQ+ events, learn about transgender history, support transgender led organizations.

The biggest step an ally can take however is towards educating yourself. Learn about the differences between gender identity and gender expression, sexuality, sex assigned at birth, emotional attraction. Ask people's pronouns and educate yourself about trans terminology. Recognize the intersectional nature of people's identities too.

Ways to celebrate Transgender Awareness Week

Events happen all over the country during the whole month of November since it's Transgender Awareness Month, especially during this week. Rallies and meetings can be great spaces to show support for the trans community!

Transgender Awareness Week is a time of empowerment and action on everyone's parts. Educate yourself and others and take it a step forward and make the world a better and more inclusive place for transgender people. Visibility is more than being seen, it's about working together to transform society.

Montevallo wins Gulf South Conference women's soccer championship

By JOSEPH MYERS, Courtesy of UM Athletics



UM women's soccer team celebrating with Gulf State Conference chaptionship trophy. Photo coutesy of UM Althetics

PENSACOLA, Fla. – Down 1-0 to Lee with 12 minutes to go in the Gulf South Conference Tournament championship match, things were starting to look bleak for the Montevallo Falcons.

However, Montevallo showed that it's not how you start a match that counts the most, it's how you finish it.

Making a furious comeback, Romee Contreras and Tylor Ring both scored goals in the final 11:59 for the Falcons to rise above the Lee Flames for a 2-1 victory and claim Montevallo's first GSC women's soccer championship since 2007.

"It's one of the most incredible feelings I've ever felt," said Montevallo head Jake Wyman, who is in his first season as the Falcons head coach after serviing as an assistant the previous three years. "This team has invested so much every day, whether it's in matches or practices or away from the field in film sessions, classroom sessions and academics and everything. This feeling and the achievement and to be able to write our name in the GSC history books is surreal. Tonight we can say we're the best in the GSC and it's an incredible feeling."

With the win, Montevallo has earned an automatic berth in the NCAA Tournament, which gets under way Thursday, Nov. 21. The tournament field - along with Montevallo's seeding and first-round opponent - will be announced on Monday, Nov. 18 at 5 p.m. Montevallo and Embry-Riddle (the Sunshine State Conference tournament champion) will be joined by four other schools in the South Regional. It is Montevallo's first trip to the NCAAs since 2007, when the Falcons went 2-1, losing to Tampa in the regional finals.

"It's a bit of uncharted territory for us and we haven't spent a lot of time focusing on (the NCAA Tournament) in the past," said Wyman. "At a certain point this season, we thought it might be a possibility once the region rankings started coming out. Now, I think the most important things are to get our legs back under us and enjoy it. We don't want to put pressure on ourselves and just enjoy the rest of this week and get ready once we know who and where we're playing."

Montevallo - which lost to West Florida in the 2018 GSC Tournament championship match - found itself down, 1-0, after Lee's Kelsey Yoder scored on a shot in the lower right corner of the net in the 36th minute. That one-goal lead stood up until the Falcons started their late charge.

"Lee got the first goal and they dominated the first half," said Wyman. "But there's two halves to soccer games and we're thankful for that. We adjusted at halftime and played the way we wanted to play. This was our fifth match in nine days and to have the late surge we had tonight was everything. It says a lot about our team that we could beat two teams like West Florida and Lee back to back. We talked about all year about not wanting to be looked at as a team that was sometimes good and sometimes just OK. We want to be in the conversation with teams like West Florida and Lee on a consistent basis and I think we proved that tonight."

Montevallo (14-3-4) started its comeback at 78:01, when Allye Darnell took the ball down the right side and sent across the goal mouth. The ball got past the Flames' goalie, found Contreras on the left post and she put her shot into the open net for her eighth goal of the season to tie the match at 1. After the match was leveled, the Falcons continued their late surge, peppering the Flames (16-5) with shots in search of a championship-winning goal.

The Falcons found what they were looking for at 87:11 when Tylor Ring, who was brought on to replace Darnell on the right wing, took a pass from Kaeri Ward up the right side and lifted a shot over the Lee defenders and keeper into the top left corner of the net to make it 2-1 Montevallo and give the Falcons their first GSC title in 12 years.

"(Darnell) had a big influence in the second half and had that assist," said Wyman. "She caused a lot of problems down their left side, but she ran so many sprints and we put (Ring) in there. She's been a consistent performer for us for four year and she was more than ready for the challenge."

Ring's goal was her fourth of the season and she was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player. Joining her on the All-Tournament Team were Contreras, Darnell and goalie Annie Mason, who made six saves in the victory.

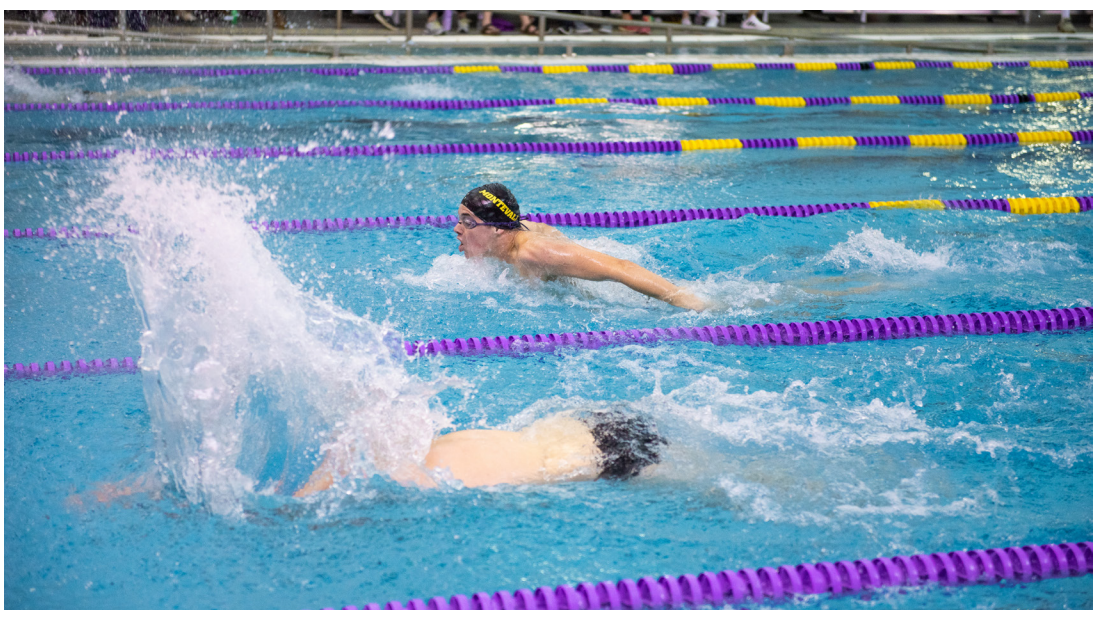
"It's been an incredible season," said Wyman. "I couldn't have done any of this without all of the girls and my staff. The credit goes to a lot of people. The team stepped up today and it's a tremendous feeling. I can't even describe it."

Photo Recap: UM swim team's first meet

Photos by KAT BELL









REANNA'S REALITY CHECK

By REANNA PIPES
Lifestyles columnist

Hi Reanna,

I'm legitimately tired and past exhausted. I've lived on caffeine and ten hours of sleep for the last week. I have three jobs, I hold leadership positions in clubs, I'm a full-time student, and to top it off, I also look after three younger siblings.

I know I need money because school is expensive and I don't need the loans. But I seriously knocked my heart out of rhythm twice because of my caffeine intake and I can't keep going like this. What the heck do you think I should do to help?

Sincerely,
Overwhelmed Worker

Dear Overwhelmed,

I do not think I have ever met someone with so many responsibilities. It is incredible that you are managing everything as well as you are. You sound exhausted and you definitely should be sleeping more, though you do not really seem to have the time.

You might try cutting back on some of your activities. Some things take precedence over others like taking care of your siblings, going to school, and working while doing it all.

Being a part of clubs is really important, but juggling all of them is too much. Try seeing if there is anywhere where you can cut back on your duties in those clubs. It may make you feel bad to not be as involved, but it could give you a little more free time to rest.

Another thing you need to remember is that you are not alone. Do not feel bad if you need to lean on a friend and ask for help sometimes. With everything that you are doing in your life, there are going to be times where you need help and those around you will understand what you are going through.

Dear Reanna,

I have been sitting next to this girl in my Spanish class all semester. She is a horse girl and is always talking about her horses. I can deal with the constant horse talk as it is only a fifty-minute class.

However, in the last few weeks, I have noticed that she smells horrible. I don't know if she always smelled bad or if I am just noticing, but she smells like a horse. It's so bad that I cannot focus in class.

I don't know if I should tell her that she smells like the back end of a horse or should I just put up with it for the rest of the semester. I don't want to hurt her feelings but it is just so bad. Please tell me how to handle this.

Thanks,
Musty Mustang Girl

Dear Musty,

Well, as you mentioned, there are really only two ways to handle it. You could not tell her about how bad she smells.

If you think that you can put up with it for the last few weeks of the semester, then that would work. But you also have to consider the possibility that you might have another class with her in the future. She could sit by you in that one and still smell bad.

I think the best option is to tell her the truth. It probably will hurt her feelings, but at the end of the day, it would be for the best. If it is as bad as you say, I am sure people in her other classes think that too.

She probably does not know she smells bad and you would be saving her from further embarrassment. If you do tell her, I would not do it before class starts and do not do it in the classroom. Maybe catch her as everyone is leaving and just kindly let her know.

Hopefully, she will appreciate you being honest and come to class smelling fresh as a daisy instead of like a horse.

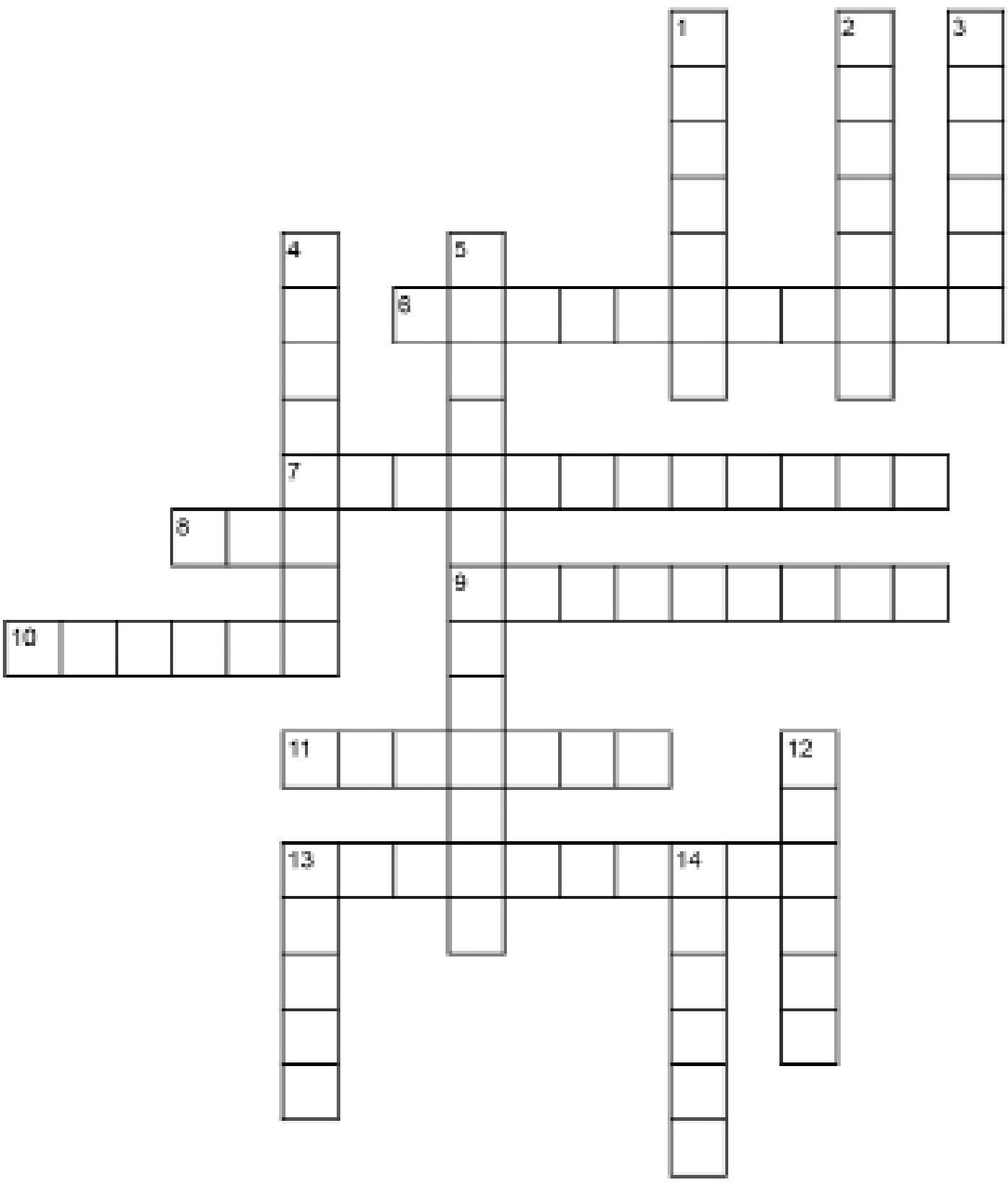
****Disclaimer*

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Submit your questions to *alabamian@montevallo.edu* for a chance to be featured in our next issue!

Crossword

By KATY BARNES



Down

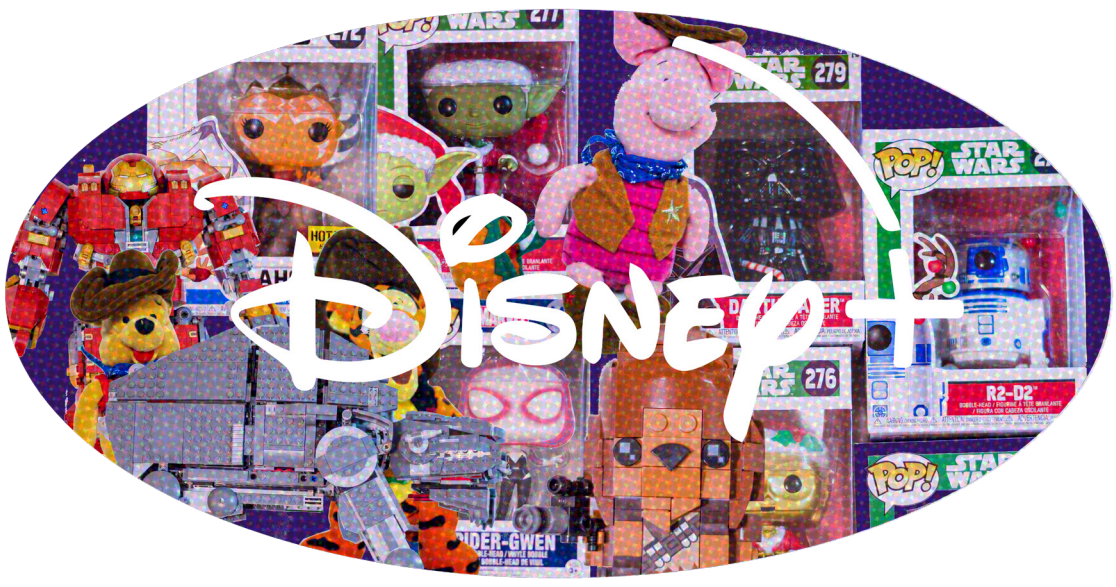
1. Peak fall fashion
2. The only valid gourd
3. Best fruit for bobbing
4. A strong wind
5. A meal with your pals
12. They love to fall off trees
13. A warm, apple-based beverage
14. Macy's annual Thanksgiving event

Across

6. The 'sauciest' Thankgiving treat
7. Holiday celebrated in November
8 . Thankgiving dessert
9. Montevallo's unofficial mascot
10. Traditional icon of Thanksigiving
11. The process of picking fruits and vegetables
13. An abundant supply of good things

Disney+ or minus?

By KATY BARNES, Lifestyles Columnist





Katy Barnes, Lifestyles Columnist

Recently streaming services have been in the rise, due to the ever-rising distain for standard cable. Even individual companies have noticed the trend and, as they do, they have been capitalizing on it in any way possible. The newest little site to join the ranks of Netflix and Hulu is Disney+. Immediately upon launch the internet went wild with excitement, but does the site deserve the praise it's getting? I'm not sure.

First of all, despite being one of the largest companies in the world, it seemed even Disney was surprised that more than a few million people would be interested in an app described as having every Disney-owned property on it.

On the day of launch, Twitter was filled with users spreading the "Disney+ Fail" hashtag as they struggled with connectivity issues and downloading errors. After the purchase was made, many found themselves facing error messages simply saying "Unable to connect to Disney+."

Even though close to one million users pre-ordered the service, Disney+ Help's official twitter released a statement saying, "The consumer demand for Disney+ has exceeded our high expectations. We are working to quickly resolve the current user issue."

Another issue with the service comes from the television app. Movies and TV shows often freezing for random lengths at a time and audio glitching are just a few of the issues the television app has been struggling with.

Aside from the technical issues, there is also the issue of content and just general user friendliness.

Television shows ranging from the Disney Afternoon days all the way to "Phineas and Ferb" find their episodes to be out of order on the app. For shows such as "Talespin" this is not a major issue due to their non-linear plot structure. However, for shows such as "Ducktales (2017)" the plot is crucial to understanding what is going on if you want to solve the in-universe mystery.

There are also odd cases of splitting up movies and television specials into average 22-minute episodes, much as they would be aired in syndication. The first Kim Possible movie, "Kim Possible: a Sitch in Time", is split into three 22-minute episodes versus the second movie being released as a full film under the DCOM label.

Older shows, such as "Goof Troop" and "Darkwing Duck" have their seasons condensed into one page, which makes for a scrolling hell on the app, and the strange need for HD and altered aspect ratios cause shows like "The Simpsons" to loose many visual gags and become distracting to watch.

Unlike its competitors Netflix or Hulu, Disney+ lacks any form of keeping up with what the view has previously watched. Not only is there not a "Continue Watching" feature, there also is a lack of recording what you have already seen.

For a college student with a lack of free time, it is crucial sites keep up with where we are in a season. Or better yet, when the Wi-Fi cuts out, I would like to not have to start my show over again from the beginning.

Now with all of those issues in mind, I would say Disney+ has some pros. There is a lot of older media that finds a home on Disney+ that I am grateful to get to rewatch. After all, as much as I adore "Dadnapped," I would not pay the twelve dollars Amazon wants me to pay to see it.

Many unreleased Disney television shows find their home on Disney+ as well, such as "Out of the Box" - a kids show from the nineties. Without Disney+ this show would be lost to time (due to it never receiving a DVD or VHS release.) Now it exists in a space where it can be rediscovered, which is a really cool thing.

There is also the perk of having access to Disney movies and Television shows I missed out on due to not having cable. For the first time, there is no cable provider required to see Disney content, and for many families seven dollars is a much better price range than cable provides.

However, the biggest issue with Disney+ is not the lack of features, it's the lack of security.

Disney+ lacks any form of security, such as two-step verification, and because of this it has become incredibly easy for hackers to swoop in and steal peoples Disney+ accounts.

According to ZDNet, a business technology website, thousands of Disney+ accounts are being sold on the dark web currently for anywhere from three dollars to eleven, if they are not being given out for free. While this may not sound like a major deal for monthly subscribers, those who paid for years in advance can be seeing a major loss of funds.

As your Disney+ Account works simultaneously with multiple other Disney accounts, it is possible for those accounts to become collateral as well – rendering many Disney fans stranded in all forms of interaction with the brand.

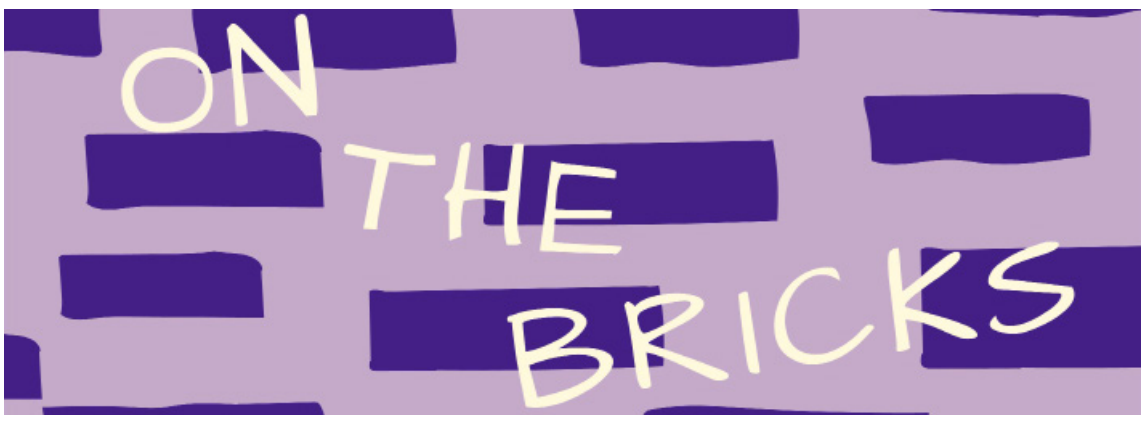
So far, Disney has done nothing about this security breach. Their Disney+ Help line is perpetually busy and there has yet to be a company-wide statement on the hacks.

Altogether, there seems to be a lack of care with the creation of the Disney+ service, both from a personal side and from a business side. It is not user friendly in any sense, but it seems that with some attention to detail it could be a perfectly good streaming site.

So, if you missed out on Disney+ this month, don't stress. Netflix and Hulu are still waiting for you with open arms and tight security. This is definitely a service that you can wait for a little longer.

On the Bricks: streaming services

BY ARIEL HALL



Questions:

Which steaming services do you use?

How often do you use them?

Do you have any thoughts on Disney+?

Responses:

Tristian Smith

"I use Netflix and Amazon Prime."

"I use Netflix everyday and Prime about once a month."

Chloe Childress

"I have Disney+, Netflix and Hulu."

"I use Netflix the most often."

"We haven't had cable since I was 12. We pre-signed up for Disney+ and I like that it's like memory lane."

Emily English

"Netflix and Hulu."

"Almost every day."

"The good thing about streaming services is that you don't have to pay for things you don't want to watch."

Thomas Dillard

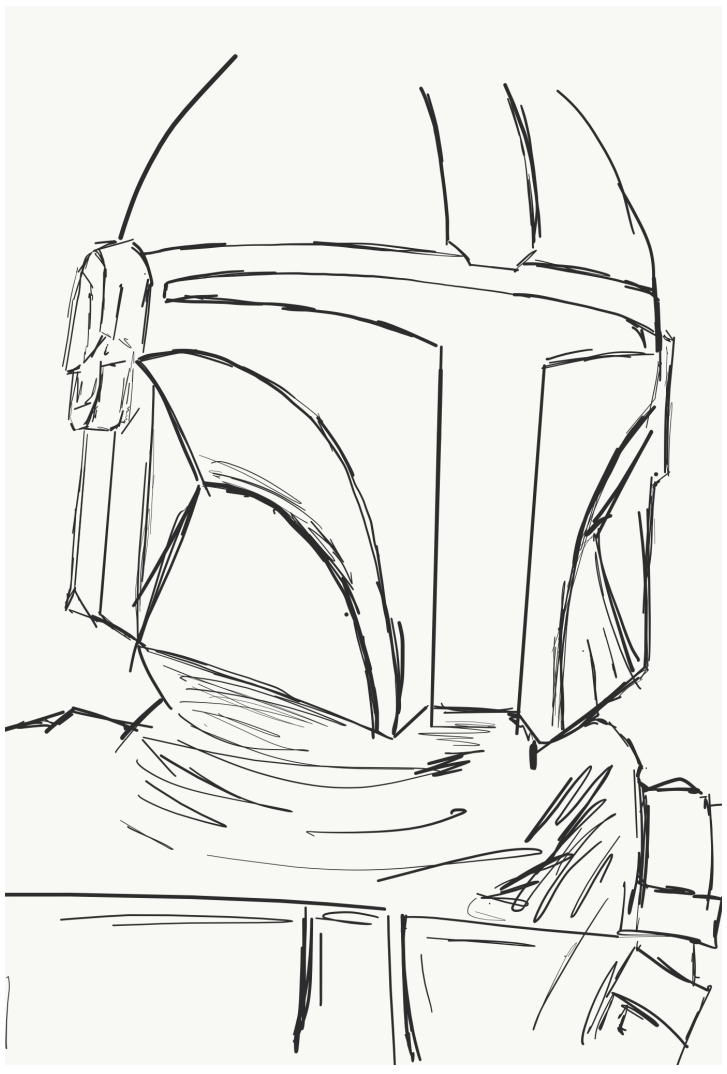
"Netflix, Amazon Prime, Disney+."

"I probably use them five days out of the week."

"I like Disney+ because you get to take a trip down memory lane, but I wish it was like Netflix and had more original stuff."

Baby Yoda is the reason to watch "The Mandalorian"

By WAID JONES, Editor-in-chief



So far, with two episodes down, Disney's "The Mandalorian" is a mediocre entry into the Star Wars franchise's excellent set of television shows that is saved by an adorable alien. While I like the show and feel it's a great ride I'm having trouble falling in love with it.

"The Mandalorian" takes place in the 20-year span between the original trilogy and JJ Abrams' Star Wars Episode VII: The Force Awakens. It explores the outer limits of the galaxy that were left with a power vacuum post empire.

The show stars Pedro Pascal as a Mandalorian bounty hunter, think Boba Fett in the original trilogy.

The show is produced and created by Jon Favreau, you may know him from the first Iron Man movie and numerous producer credits in the Marvel Universe. Favreau and the team behind building the world of "The Mandalorian" and setting the scene. Dramatic vistas and wide-open sequences work well to give the audience a feeling of a Star Wars adventure.

Another high point of the early episodes is their reliance on practical effects and miniatures to create speicial effects sequences that harken back to the original trilogy. With this comes a descent sprinkling of computer generated VFX that only once or twice pulled me out of the show's world.

The first episode's opening sequence is filled with complexity and grit which is a welcome direction for the franchise, and shows us a lot about the world, but not really about the character. It brings a cinematic vision to the franchise that comes from the

The show, however, fails to create human connection with the main character. While Pascal brings as much nuance as possible to his performance of the series' as yet unnamed, main character his ability to connect with the audience is limited by both the character's anonymity and his refusal to remove his helmet

This isn't surprising though, as the bread crumb level of storytelling is nothing new to television or the most recent entries to the Star Wars Franchise. JJ Abrams is to thank for this lack of information and the show's stuttering start. The lens flare loving director made star wars a puzzle and Favreau's "The Mandalorian" embraced this.

If you really look at the first two episodes of the show we've covered very little narrative ground and set up almost nothing about the characters.

We don't even really know the main character's name! Before you say it, Pedro Pascal let slip in an interview that the character's name is not Mando.

These issues with character's connection have plagued non-numbered entries into the Star Wars franchises since Rogue One killed off a character after failing to make us care about her. This could be excused in a much less intimate iteration of the franchise, but "The Mandalorian" hinges on us building a connection with a single protagonist instead of the haphazard teams of the rest of the Star Wars films and TV Shows.

Rogue One, Solo and every numbered episode of the Star Wars franchise features a group of characters, and in the instances that we follow one the actor isn't limited by having their face covered.

In all other entries into the Star Wars franchise, helmets have been used to temporarily mask identity or to remove the humanity of a character. Darth Vader, storm troopers and bounty hunters were meant to be semi-one-dimensional villains. Vader doesn't begin to gain complexity as a character until well into episode five and even this is only as a way to drive the plot.

This is the major flaw in "The Mandalorian" that keeps me from saying it's amazing, because hidden behind fantastic world building and a deep background are lackluster, flat characters. Each character relies on a gimmick, whether it's one line they repeat or general cuteness these in-built character tropes prevent them from having depth.

Hopefully, as the show progresses we'll get real character development and meaningful storylines, but so far, it's relying on a strange mix of monster of the week and continuous narrative storytelling that fails to really find a voice.

The show stands as one of the flagship pieces of Disney+ and it's hard to say that it justifies the service, or your time, on its own. If you've been wanting something different out of Star Wars then this show is perfect for you, and hopefully as it progresses I'll be proven wrong and can begin to really connect with the Pascal's character.

If you're not a die-hard Star Wars fan the only reason to watch the show is the amount of cuteness that baby Yoda provides.



By WAID JONES

Photo by Kat Bell

Book

I've been slowly making my way through Edmund Morris' biography of Thomas Edison. The book, titled "Edison," is really fascinating to me because, different from most biographies, it is written reverse chronologically. So, instead of beginning with Edison's birth, the book starts with his death and works its way backwards. However, while the book is being met with mixed reviews, it's being called one of the most in depth works devoted to Edison in a long time.

This subversion of the genre is actually pretty standard for Morris as he's known for writing incredibly detailed, though non-traditional biographies of famous figures. Notably he invented a fictional character for his biography of Ronald Reagan as the author said that Reagan's life was too boring.

TV Show

Netflix's "The Toys That Made Us" is one of my favorite documentary series ever created and it just released a new season on Nov. 15. Each episode of the show featured a different toy line that has shaped modern pop-culture and gives viewers an in depth look at the behind the scenes of each toy's creation.

This season features wrestling, My Little Pony, Power Rangers and the highlight episode of the season that shows us the making of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. Interviews with the creators of TMNT, Peter Laird and Kevin Eastman, are truly fantastic and shed a lot of light on the relationship that they had during the creation of the turtles.

Movie/Podcast

I'm a latecomer to watching Lulu Wang's "The Farewell" but I'm glad I fina;;y watched it. The film follows a young woman as she travels back to China for her cousin's wedding. The thing that makes the film special is that it highlights a Chinese trend of not telling a loved one that they have terminal cancer as it is believed that it would ruin their last few months. The film stars Awkwafina in her first appearance in a leading role which the actress really steps into well.

The film is based off of Wang's own experience that she shared in an episode of "This American Life."

I heard about the film by listening to an interview with the director on Craig Mazin, creator and writer of HBO's "Chernobyl," and John August's podcast "Scriptnotes." In the episode they talk about Wang's journey to getting a film made in the US that has 80 percent of its dialogue in Mandarin and how she got to where she is in Hollywood. Even if you don't decide to watch the film the podcast episode is still really enriching and worth a listen.

App

Notion is a notetaking app that has revolutionized how I take notes on my computer. It helps me keep track what I actually have to do in meetings, before and during as well as giving me a really cool platform for making lists. Whether it's a to do list for class, story ideas for The Alabamian or my ever-growing reading list Notion has given me a platform to keep much better track of it all.

It does this by allowing me to create a simple list of notes. Each time I add an item to a list I have the opportunity to give it a number of categories and then create a note about that thing. So for my reading list I can specify what type of book it is, the author and then write a quick summary or reason about why I wanted to read it so I'm not left confused when I read it later.

It's also how I write this article because it helps me remember what I'm doing each week. To be perfectly honest, I've been trying to figure out how to write an entire article about this app for a while, but I don't think anyone would read 800 words about a note taking app so it finally made its way here.



By ALEX WARREN

Aries ♈ You may have been feeling all over the place lately. This week, your mind will become more centered on one thing. Focus on that, and you will be successful.

Taurus ♉ Be patient this week. You may have made new acquaintances, but with these changes can come trouble. Assess what you are looking forward to in the future and determine if these new friends will help you prosper.

Gemini ♊ Things may have been rocky for you lately. Soon, you may be receiving well-deserved rewards, if you accept them. Someone close to you may be envious, do not let sway your pride.

Cancer ♋ It is time to take some time for yourself this week! Do not let yourself be easily distracted; rely on your gut and good things will follow.

Leo ♌ Good fortune may come your way this week, but do not become overzealous! Consider all of your choices. Think about the future and about how you can bring long-awaited projects into reality.

Virgo ♍ You may be feeling moodiness this week. It will pass, but do not act drastically during this time. Build plans for the future and act on them once the time is right.

Libra ♎ Allow yourself moments to reflect and resolve what you need to. Now is the time to make decisions about letting go of what is harmful to you. Always pursue what is best for you!

Scorpio ♏ You may be having a difficult time holding back your emotions this week. Do not fear them! Reflect on them, and do not be rash. Lean on those you trust, especially your family.

Sagittarius ♐ Keep your temper even this week. Success is coming your way, but you may lose sight of it if you overthink every aspect of your life. Keep your eyes open for great opportunities!

Capricorn ♑ Don't lose sight of yourself this week, Cap! You will be where you need to be when you need to be, trust your intuition, it is and has always been your strength.

Aquarius ♒ Growth is coming your way! You may learn of new knowledge that is helpful in your journey. Be patient and focus on what you need to bring harmony to your life. Make sure to focus on what truly benefits you.

Pisces ♓ Now is a time for reflection. Emotions have been leading you recently, but now may be the time for a new beginning. Start analyzing your possibilities and let go of other influences. Use your own judgement. No one knows your own life like you do!



Spotify PLAYLIST

By The ALABAMIAN STAFF

ROADTRIPPIN'

"I wanna Go Out" by American Authors

"Heyo, I wanna go out, step off of my cloud," I love this song, it's so upbeat and always primes me to get behind the wheel to meet my pals. It's an essential vibe for any long drive.

"Take Me Home, Country Roads" by John Denver

A classic travelling song; this iconic hit of John Denver's is sure to bring up feelings of nostalgia for even the most jaded of drifters. When I listen to this, I find myself remembering all the places that I have been and wondering just what place I truly call home.

"A Horse with No Name" by America

Personally, I have always viewed this song as one about personal growth, which as someone who has done a fair bit of traveling, is what I associate this with. It's a song about journeys and the personal change that is often experienced when traveling alone.

"Big Iron" by Marty Robbins

I really enjoy story-telling songs, so this cowboy gunslinger ballad is great. It tells the thrilling story about a famed outlaw coming to town, hoping to make the sheriff his 21st kill. Who will win?

"Unbeatable; Pokémon Advanced Battle Theme Song" by David Rolfe

Who doesn't want to believe they're unbeatable? This is an amazing song about taking a journey and overcoming all obstacles in your path, and if you haven't listened to this song while traveling down "an endless highway" then you have yet to have had the penultimate road trip experience.

The Alabamian

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What makes Christmas specials so special?

By KATY BARNES

Traditions are the cornerstone of the December holidays, and without them, getting into the mood of the season would be much harder. From religious tradition, such as lighting the Menorah during Hanukkah, to personal traditions, such as opening one present on Christmas Eve, they all have a special part in how we observe our holidays. For many, a crucial tradition in their household is watching holiday specials.

Between Freeform's annual 25 Days of Christmas celebration and the various holiday specials you find within your favorite television show, it seems like there is an abundance of television to watch every December. From Ranken-Bass to Dreamworks, everyone is in on the holiday game.

It feels like holiday specials have been around forever, but the first official Christmas special was intitled "Bedtime for Sniffles" and it was produced by the Warner Brothers. It was classified as a "Merrie Melody" - the series of cartoons that first introduced Bugs Bunny and Mickey Mouse. It's eight minutes long and it focuses on a mouse named Sniffles as he tries, and fails, to wait for Santa Claus on Christmas Eve.

The next year Hanna-Barbera released their first Christmas special, "Tom and Jerry: The Night Before Christmas." The plot is very similar to most other Tom and Jerry shorts, except it ends with the two putting their differences aside for Christmas.

For the next decade there was a lack of new Christmas specials, but the 1950s sought to fill the Christmas-shaped hole in television history. In February 1952, Warner Brothers returned with a short called "Gift Wrapped" which, like the Tom and Jerry short, was a standard Sylvester and Tweety movie themed around the Christmas season.

Throughout the '50s, animated Christmas specials took a backseat to live action musicals and spectaculars. On Dec. 24th, 1951 "Amahl and the Night Visitors" aired from the NBC Opera Theater. It was the first made for television opera, and it marked the first time a Christmas special to be traditionally aired every season. It continued to be aired from 1951 to 1962, only stopping for a new version to be recorded.

Opera's weren't the only type of live show on television. Musicians such as Bob Hope and Bing Crosby hosted variety shows themed to the holidays. These specials are where many of the classic Christmas songs come from.

Many Christmas specials at this time were retelling of a handful of classic Christmas stories, such as the Nativity or Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." This changed with Ranken-Bass's instant classic "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer."

"Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" was the beginning of the reign of Ranken-Bass. From 1964 to 1974 they released many instant classics such as "Frosty the Snowman" and "The Little Drummer Boy," defining the idea of the Christmas special.

As years go on, every show seems to have an episode set aside to spend on a Christmas episode. Many are parodies of pre-existing, classic plots, such as a Gift of the Magi plot, or being separated from family on Christmas Eve, which helps play into the timelessness of the Christmas special.

Some television shows decide to avoid mentioning Christmas whatsoever, and they make up their own holidays in response. In the television show "My Brother, My Brother, and Me," the last episode is dedicated to celebrating Candlemas, their "pan-religious, pansexual, personal pan pizza winter holiday" celebrated every winter, around the time of the three major December holidays.

Continued on page 5...

NEWS *in* BRIEF

By CALEB JONES

George Zimmerman, who was acquitted in the fatal 2012 shooting of unarmed black teen Trayvon Martin, has filed a suit against Martin's family and other parties. Zimmerman claims there was a conspiracy to frame him and is seeking $100 million in damages. The death of Martin inspired the Black Lives Matter movement and heightened the conversation around brutality against unarmed blacks and the ever-present racial inequality in the country.

Dec. 4 marked the 50th anniversary of the death of activist and Black Panther Fred Hampton at the hands of the Chicago Police Department and the FBI; Hampton was shot dead in his sleep. Hampton was an outspoken voice against police brutality and classism, and with the Black Panthers served his community.

Look inside for...

- How to survive the holidays
- Christmas gift guide
- Crossword

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The semester is almost over and finals are quickly looming, but it's important to not forget to take care of yourself. Working towards a goal is important, but we should never lose sight of why we're all subjecting ourselves to late nights and long hours. We're here to get a degree, make friends and have fun.

Eventually, we'll look back on the things that we stressed so much over during finals week and understand that many of the pressing academic stressors of today won't even register to you. Try to remember your time at UM as something good. So, don't forget to take some time out of the week for yourself during finals.

This semester has been eye opening for me as I took the position as editor-in-chief of The Alabamian. I came into the job bright eyed and wanting to change everything. I quickly realized, undoubtedly like many before me, that wasn't feasible. Not to mention, that changing everything about something you love wasn't needed either.

After a couple hiccups, I feel that the paper is in a really good place to move into next semester ready to take on coverage of the College Night Season. Our copy editing and layout has become better and our editorial team and staff has become better at every aspect of creating a newspaper.

Having the opportunity to be the editor of The Alabamian has allowed me to grow with them and hopefully build a better paper overall from where we were at the beginning of the year everyone on staff stepped into a new roll this year and they were all up to the task.

I've had the amazing opportunity to watch fantastic writers and photographers grow. It has been really rewarding to see them grow will working on the newspaper throughout the semester. All of them have stepped up to the challenge and really opened themselves up to the opportunities that were laid before them.

We were able to go to the National Collegiate Media Convention in November and the experience was exceptional.

Our brand-new freshman writers and contributors have also shown amazing growth and stepped into the paper becoming such an integral part of The Alabamian that I couldn't imagine putting together an issue without them. Writing for a campus newspaper can often feel like a daunting, scary task. They took it on fantastically.

I also hope that during next semester we can more openly promote the communication between the campus community and The Alabamian in hopes that we don't miss covering things. Busy schedules often hurt our ability to make sure that we cover everything around campus.

If you are involved with a student organization or group and want us to try and cover an event that you're holding please reach out. We will do the best we can. We always love to hear from our readers to know what we you want us to cover around town.

I hope that you all have a wonderful holiday break. I'll definitely be going home and sleeping for a couple days, because this has been a long and tiring trip over the last couple months. In the end, it continues to be worth it to have the excellent experiences.

The friends and experiences that the University of Montevallo and The Alabamian have offered me are amazing and I cannot tell you how much they are worth to me. I have truly found a home here and celebrating friends and family is a really important part of Christmas to me.

If you're traveling for the holiday be safe and don't forget to also celebrate the family, you have at UM. The people who have supported you as you were writing papers in the library 5 minutes before they were due or encouraging you after a presentation or who commiserate with you after a hard test. Don't forget to celebrate them over the break.

Thank you,

Waid Jones,
Editor-in-chief

It's not just Christmas time

By JAY BEND

Around this time of the year, television networks, as well as streaming platforms, begin to crank out holiday specials one after the other; however, it seems that the only holiday advertised is Christmas.

Now, yes, there have been television specials concerning holidays such as Hanukkah and Kwanzaa, but there just haven't been enough.

Holiday specials are one of the most entertaining times that we, as television viewers, look forward to. Whether it's your favorite cartoon or the basic sitcom, the ideas that content creators tend to draw upon make "holiday episodes" the most enticing.

Unfortunately, content creators sometimes exclude other religions and their holiday celebrations that occur around the same time.

Even the other Abrahamic religions, Judaism and Islam, don't get that much shine, which is odd since the United States itself is not compromised of all the same followers of the same religion.

When you look at a common list of television shows, many of them participate in the idea of Christmas holiday specials. A smaller group of shows on one of these lists produce a non-Christmas related holiday special and then you have the tiniest group that might not do a holiday episode at all.

Because most holiday specials are either blatantly based around Christmas or with Christmas in the background, there is less of an incentive to explain what Christmas is. But when specials are done around any other winter celebrations, a good chunk of the episode would be full of just exposition, which is hardly good storytelling.

Episodes revolving around other Abrahamic religions still get a mass load of exposition, either because the storytellers could not weave together an interesting narrative or because they assumed that no one really knew anything about them.

Most show lack interesting narratives due to the recycling of plots, especially those based off of other Christmas and holiday tales. For example, there are countless television shows that have done their own spin of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" and production studios have redone "The Nutcracker" at least three times in the past decade.

I think that the majority of this, however, has to do with a majority of the television networks that these shows are on tending to lean a little bit more conservative than liberal, and there's nothing wrong with that. The drawback is that because of this, storytellers are not allowed to venture outside of the mainstream narrative and show something innovative, original and inclusive.

On the brighter side, there have been a few gems of television that are prime examples of what holiday inclusivity looks like.

Three examples of animated shows that tried their best to be inclusive for their time were "Rugrats," "The Proud Family" and "The Grim Adventures of Billy and Mandy."

"Rugrats" and "The Proud Family" gave us a look at holiday specials centered around holidays other than Christmas. They gave us fairly good representations of Kwanzaa and Hanukkah and how they are celebrated without forcing it down our throats. These episodes addressed it in a way that said, "hey these holidays exist too. Enjoy the show."

Then you have "The Grim Adventures of Billy and Mandy" that still told a Christmas story but one that was enjoyable for those who didn't practice the Christian faith at all. It mixed the supernatural tones of its other episodes with the overly festive and jolly tones of a Christmas special.

So, are holiday specials a bad thing?

Absolutely not, they bring the family together no matter what conflict may be going on. They provide us with a level of euphoria that allows us to just unwind and chill. It is often thanks to their influence that we are able to relax and appreciate the holidays.

The fact that these specials do so much for us just makes inclusivity even more important. Not only does it make groups of people who are marginalized feel a sense of pride, but it also teaches children and adults alike about a new culture by way of an entertaining medium.

SUBMIT NEWS TIPS TO *alabamian@montevallo.edu*

Die Hard is a Christmas movie and Nakatomi plaza is definitely a Christmas tree

By WAID JONES, Editor-in-chief

John McClane's quest to reunite with his estranged wife and defeat the evil Hans Grueber is the absolute definition of a Christmas film.

The movie allows us to experience all of the highs and lows of mine-laden get togethers with family members. The trials and tribulations that many of us experience going home are emblematic of McClane's journey through Nakatomi Plaza.

McClane, played by Bruce Willis, starred in this film as the highest paid actor at the time, and it was his first jump onto the big screen. He plays opposite of Alan Rickman as a would-be robber and kidnapper. Rickman's performance is, as always, fantastic.

The story, an action movie plot so good it was nominated for an Oscar, has its holes to be fair, but it brought new life to the genre when it was released in 1988.

The film follows detective John McClane as he attempts to thwart a terrorist plot to blow up an office building. Throughout the movie McClane gets progressively more road worn and visually shows us how difficult his journey through the dangerous maze is. The stakes



are what make it great, they make the audience wonder if he is actually going to defeat Gruber in a believable way.

Much like the transition from childhood to adulthood, gone are the days of infallible super hero action stars, and now we're met with the troubles of adulthood. Family strife becomes more real and our ability to deal with it is not veiled in the shroud of youth.

McClane's struggle to reunite his family and the question of how his wife will respond is left completely up in the air until the very end of the film, when arguably Willis' McClane has more of a connection with the police officer he's been talking to throughout the film. (Honestly, I've definitely had this same interaction with friends after winter breaks).

Aside from the film's parallels to real life, it's also a good time. "Die Hard's" status as a Christmas movie primarily comes from its setting at a company Christmas party the night before the holiday, but embodies much more of what I'm looking for in a Christmas movie.

It's a good time and enjoyable for all. It has stakes that I can believe in every time and the right dosing of action, suspense and mediocre German accents to make it so that even on repeat viewings it still holds up.

It shows us the true meaning of a Christmas movie in that we can see perservearance and togetherness.

The action special effects, perfectly dispersed throughout the film, hold up brilliantly as they were primarily done practically.

So, when you're sitting down looking for a Christmas movie to watch, think about "Die Hard." It's as much of a Christmas movie as any of the Harry Potter films.

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Open up new worlds this holiday

By HARRISON NEVILLE

One of the great things about being a college student during the holidays is that you usually get a lot more time off. What better way to spend that time between helping your Mom hide your Dad's presents and trying to guess just what's inside that really big box from your grandmother, than curled up on the sofa sipping hot chocolate and reading an excellent book?

"Icefall" by Matthew J. Kirby

A rich story set in a nordic hall during the winter, readers will want to grab an extra blanket as they follow the story's heroine, as she wrestles with her feelings of insignificance compared to her siblings. Paranoia and fear grip everyone as they wait for news of the war that they'd been sent away to avoid, and deal with the implications of treachery in their midst.

"The Thirteen Clocks" by James Thurber

A truly ridiculous book that make just about anyone laugh. A cold, cruel Duke has imprisoned his niece in his castle and now a prince has come to save the day. The plot is inevitable, as the day is long, but the story is breathtaking for its shear ridiculousness. This story is sure to make anyone laugh themselves right out of their favorite armchair.

"Klaus: How Santa Claus Began" by Grant Morrison and Dan Mora

Klaus is set in a grim world of fantasy and lore where magic creeps ever present in the corner of everyone's minds. In this graphic novel, Klaus isn't just the man who brings the toys, he's also the one who fights to bring the yuletide spirit to everyone.

"Scoundrels" by Timothy Zahn

Anyone needing a good Star Wars fix before the new movie, or possibly someone needing to remind themselves why they still love Star Wars after they see the new movie, will love this book. When all is said and done, this book boils down to an excellently written heist story set in the world of Star Wars and featuring our favorite pair of lovable rogues.

"We Are Not Eaten By Yaks" by C. Alexander London

My sister bought this book for my brother a few Christmases back and I remember looking at the book and thinking, "Wow, that looks really dumb, I can't believe she thought he'd read it." Naturally, after only a few hours I got bored and picked it up, figuring that I'd never actually finish it. Much to my surprise I loved it and read the entire thing almost non-stop, laughing my head off as I did.

"Moriarty" by Anthony Horowitz

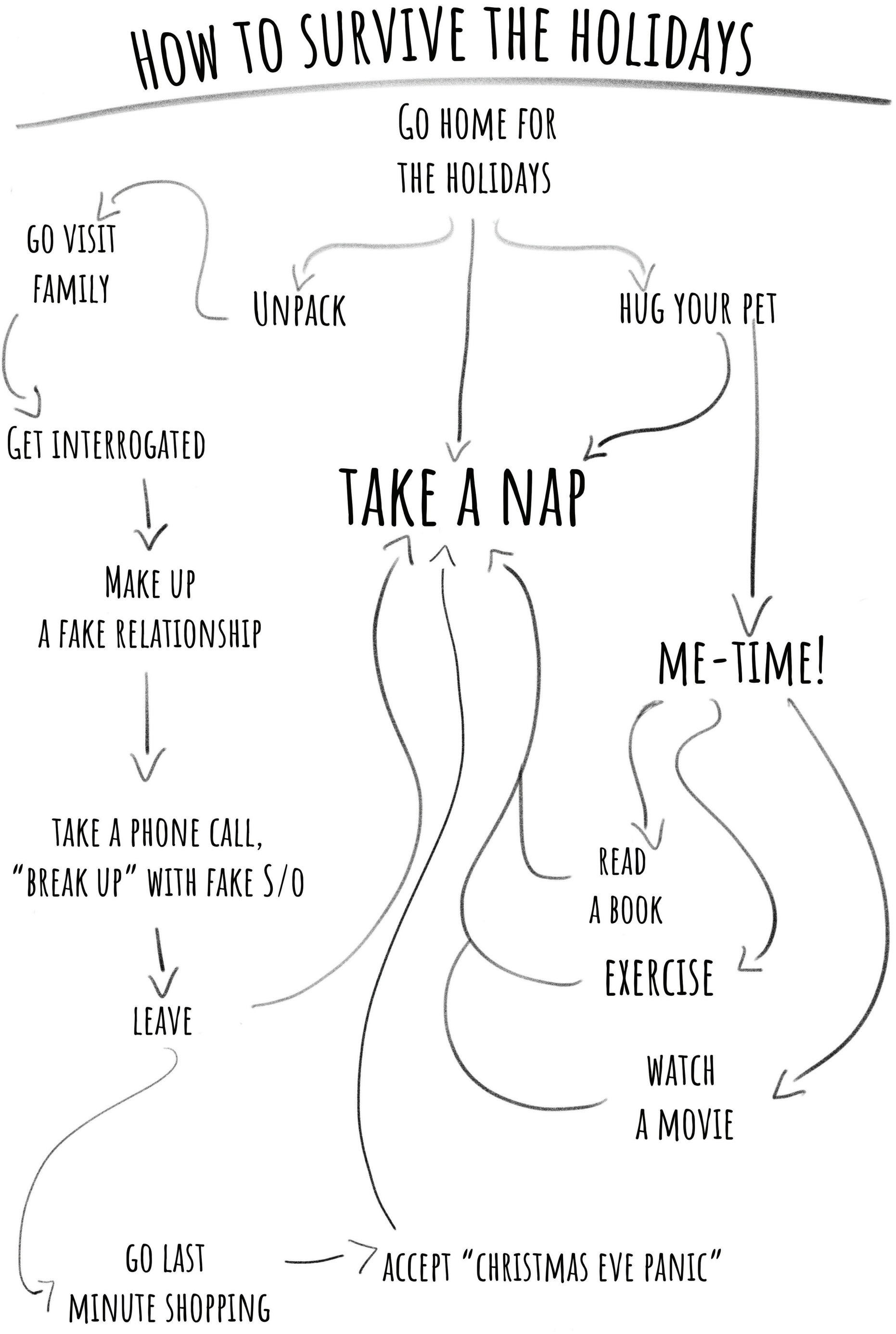
An excellent mystery novel based in the world of Sherlock Holmes crafted by Sir Conan Doyle that will keep readers enthralled as they try to solve deviously complex plot before it's too late.

"The Lord of Rings" trilogy by J.R.R. Tolkien

If you haven't read this series by now, then Christmas would be an excellent time to start. A classic story, Tolkien's massive world building is fascinating and has inspired numerous writers to follow in his footsteps.

"Into the Storm" by Taylor Anderson

The crew of a WWII Destroyer sails through a strange storm and comes out the other side on a completely different world. They soon discover that this world has its own conflicts and that they must pick a side if they hope to survive. With realistically crafted action and heart wrenching battles this book is sure to draw in readers and leave them wishing for more. Luckily for them, this is





REANNA'S REALITY CHECK

By REANNA PIPES
Lifestyles columnist

Dear Reanna,

Do you have any general tips for how to deal with family members around the holidays? There are several members of my extended family that I don't get along with, and I just don't know how to handle my emotions and control my actions around Christmas.

Because of this, I tend to dread going home for most of the semester breaks. I don't want to accidentally blow up and ruin Christmas for my family because of my issues with some family members.

Thanks,
Holiday Harmony

Dear Harmony,

The holidays are already a stressful time on their own and throwing in members of the family that you cannot stand make it worse. While no one wants to ruin Christmas for everyone else, you should be able to enjoy it too.

One thing you can try is to just avoid those select family members that you do not get along with. As silly as it seems, sometimes the best way to avoid confrontation is to literally avoid it. Stick with the people that you like and let them keep you happy.

You could also try and talk out some of your issues with those family members. A resolution could be made and would prevent any future issues for all holidays to come. Confrontation can be scary though, so don't make yourself do something you don't want to do.

Remember to set boundaries for yourself and make them clear to those around you. It is not just a holiday break for them, but for you as well. I hope everything goes well for you.

Sincerely,
Reanna

Dear Reanna,

With Christmas approaching, I can already feel myself stressing out. I'll be having to split my time between my parents, who are divorced. Neither of my parents gets along with each other, which makes it hard to work out a good schedule.

Christmas is a time where I'm supposed to be able to relax, but instead, I'll have to play mediator between my parents and also have pretty much no time to myself.

Now I don't even want to go home because I'm more worried about the holidays than I am about my finals. Do you have any suggestions for me to try and keep things under control for the break?

Thank you,
No Time Tina

Dear Tina,

While I do not have divorced parents like you, I still understand some of the challenges and stress from figuring out how to divide your time over the break. Trying to see and spend time with everyone you love over just a few short weeks is hard.

To start with, you need to set some boundaries with your parents. Remind them that they are the adults in the situation. It does not sound fun, but you are their child and you should not have to have a bad break because they cannot get along. Your parents need to work with you and each other to figure out a schedule that works.

I recommend keeping a very organized schedule with either a planner or calendar app, just to make sure you do not miss any events. It will help with any confusion or mix-ups and help you maximize all your time.

While you are worried about spending time with everyone else and making sure they are happy, do not forget to take some time for yourself. It is your Christmas break after all. You should not have to go from stressing about finals to stressing about.

Put your needs and mental health first and make sure those around you understand the importance of that. I hope that my advice helps and you have a wonderful, stress-free break.

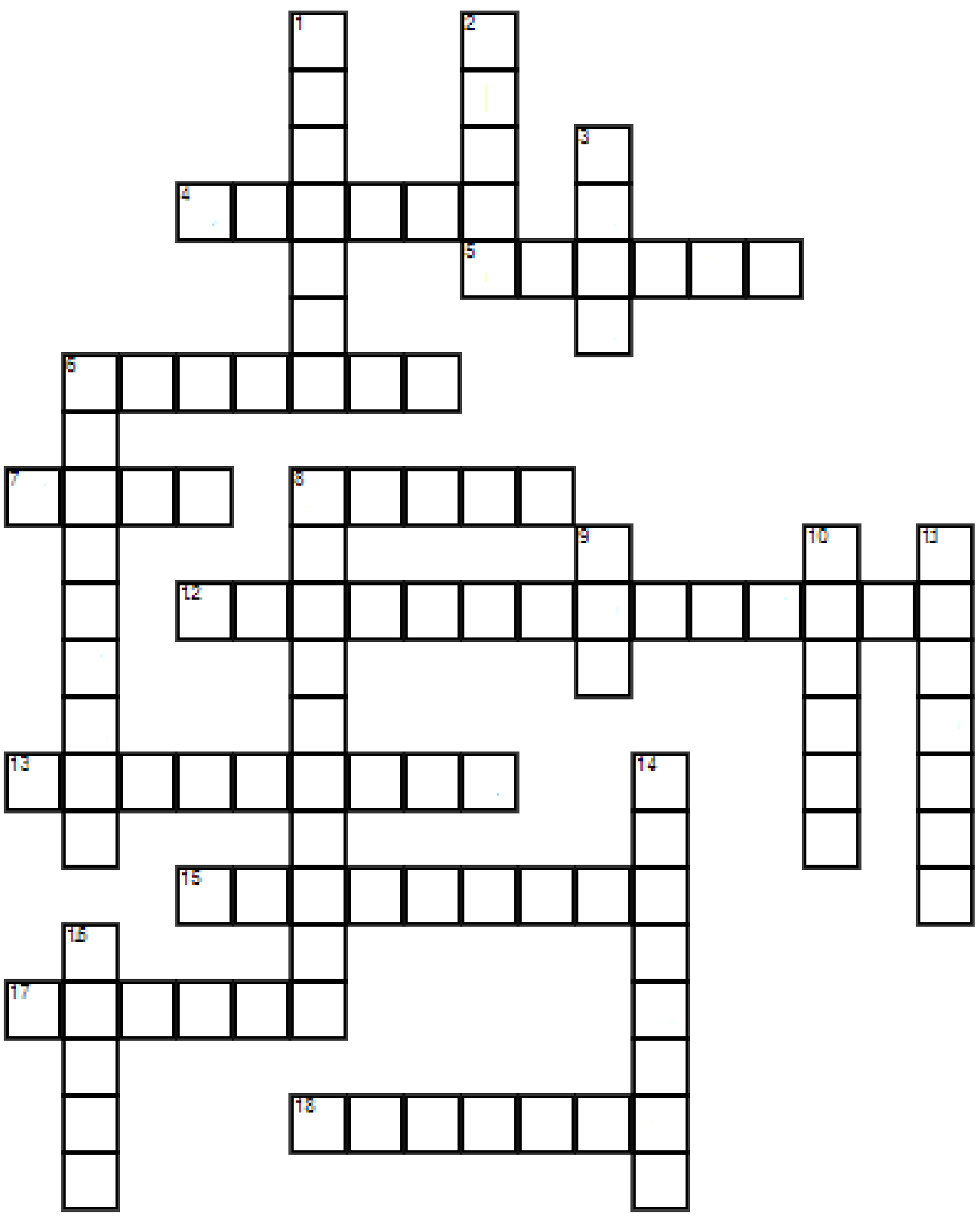
Sincerely,
Reanna

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Crossword

By KATY BARNES



Down

1. A four-sided spinning top
2. The number of days in Hanukkah
3. A woven mat symbolizing the foundation community
6. The 25th of December
8. Deliverer of presents on Christmas Eve
9. The spirit of the season
11. A candelabra lit during Hannukah
14. Eight day "Festival of Lights" celebrated in Judaism
16. The fruits and vegetables of the harvest, symbolizing collective and productive labor

Across

4. Famous hater of Christmas
5. The number of days in Christmas
6 . Lit during many winter celebrations
7. A holiday symbol under which you put presents
8. The number of days in Kwanzaa
12. The shortest day of the year
13. A minty, crook shaped sweet
15. A belief or behavoir passed down through time
17. Fried Potato Pancakes
18: African-American celebration of life

Shop till you drop, on a budget

By HARRISON NEVILLE



CVS has 8 gingerbread house kits under $11 that make perfect Christmas gifts.

During the Christmas season, the one tradition that is most practiced is the giving and receiving of gifts. For many, it is more about the giving of presents and the joy that it brings to others than it is receiving gifts for themselves, but Christmas shopping can get expensive, which limits what you can give to the amount you're able to spend. Hopefully this holiday season, the list below will aid you in purchasing good gifts in Montevallo on a small budget.

Smitherman's:
Homemade Fudge: $2 or less; price varies depending on the type and size.

The fudge at Smitherman's is well known in the community as a tasty treat and would make for a great stocking stuffer, or even a simple way to say "I love you" to someone special.



Smitherman's Pharmacy selling homemade fudge year round for your pleasure.

Fidget Spinners: $1

Remember back in high school when everyone was obsessed fidget spinners? I bet you thought they were gone, and for the most part they are, but they haven't been forgotten. A classic throwback, this makes for an entertaining and inexpensive present to give.

CVS
Slinky: $5.79

Many a happy day were spent in my grandmother's house using my slinky to pretend to be a robot from a distant world. Sadly, the era of the slinky is mostly past, but this is still an excellent gift to buy for your younger siblings, particularly if they never had one in the past.

EZ Build Gingerbread House: $9.49

Gingerbread house making is a fun Christmas tradition, but not everyone has time to bake their own gingerbread for the house. This offers an excellent way for you to enjoy the tradition, without actually having to bake anything. The kit even comes with some candy for you to use as decorations.

Thunder Tumbler: $12.99

The sound of high-pitched whining engine accompanied by a yowling cat. This fun remote-controlled car is a great gift for someone else's kid.

Thermal Boot Socks: $3.99

As a rule of thumb, most people aren't looking to get socks for Christmas, but sometimes, particularly if you're a poor college student who hasn't bought new socks in years, you just need more socks. These socks are an excellent gift for that friend that you know needs more socks.

The Happy Dollar
Rubber Squeaky Chicken: $2.99

This is a versatile gift, because it's actually a dog toy. So, you can buy it for your newspaper staff Dirty Santa party, and then if anyone gets annoyed at you for buying a gag gift, you just point out to them that their dog will love it.

Foam Sword and Shield: $1.29

A great gift for any young lads or lasses you know that need tools for their dragon slaying, or hey, get it for yourself. Afterall, you can't let the kids have all the fun, and there can never too many dragon slayers.

Iron Man Remote-Controlled Helicopter: $9.99

The sky is the limit with this gift. Take to the air behind the remote of Tony Stark's helicopter in the traditional Iron Man colors of red and gold.

Dollar General:
Goofy Pet Mugs: $2

Most of us have at least one friend that is ridiculously obsessed with their pets and you know that they'd love a goofy mug that proclaims loud and proud just how much they love their pet in the most obnoxiously cheesy way possible.

Decorated Boxes: $1-5

Part of the fun of Christmas is looking at all the boxes scattered beneath the tree, so why not spend just a little extra money and make your box something special? It's a great value gift because the box will be reusable and your friend can use it for a present next year. You could even make it a tradition to exchange fun boxes each year.

Lucky's One Dollar Zone:
Vintage Ball and Paddle Set: $1

It might seem a little odd, but messing with one of these is actually a fairly entertaining way to pass some time. It's also a bit of a novelty, which makes it a fun gift to put in someone's stocking or give during Dirty Santa.

Candles: $1

A great way to light up the house after the storm as well a good way to keep the bathroom smelling clean, candles are a pretty safe bet to go with if you want to give someone something they can use, but aren't sure what.

Tractor Supply Company:
Smith and Wesson's American Heroes Pocket Knife: $16.99

This is a pretty nice-looking knife with an American flag pattern. It'd make a great gift for any individual that appreciates a quality knife and wants to spiffy up their collection a bit.

Fleece Throws: $14.99 (currently on sale)

With the winter weather coming up, everyone appreciates something to bundle up with while watching the latest hallmark movie and sipping a mug of hot chocolate.

Bargains and Deals:

Tractor Supply Company currently has all Toys, Décor and Furniture items on sale for 25%. The sale is set to last until Dec. 10.



This Shrilling Chicken can be found in the dog toy section of The Happy Dollar.

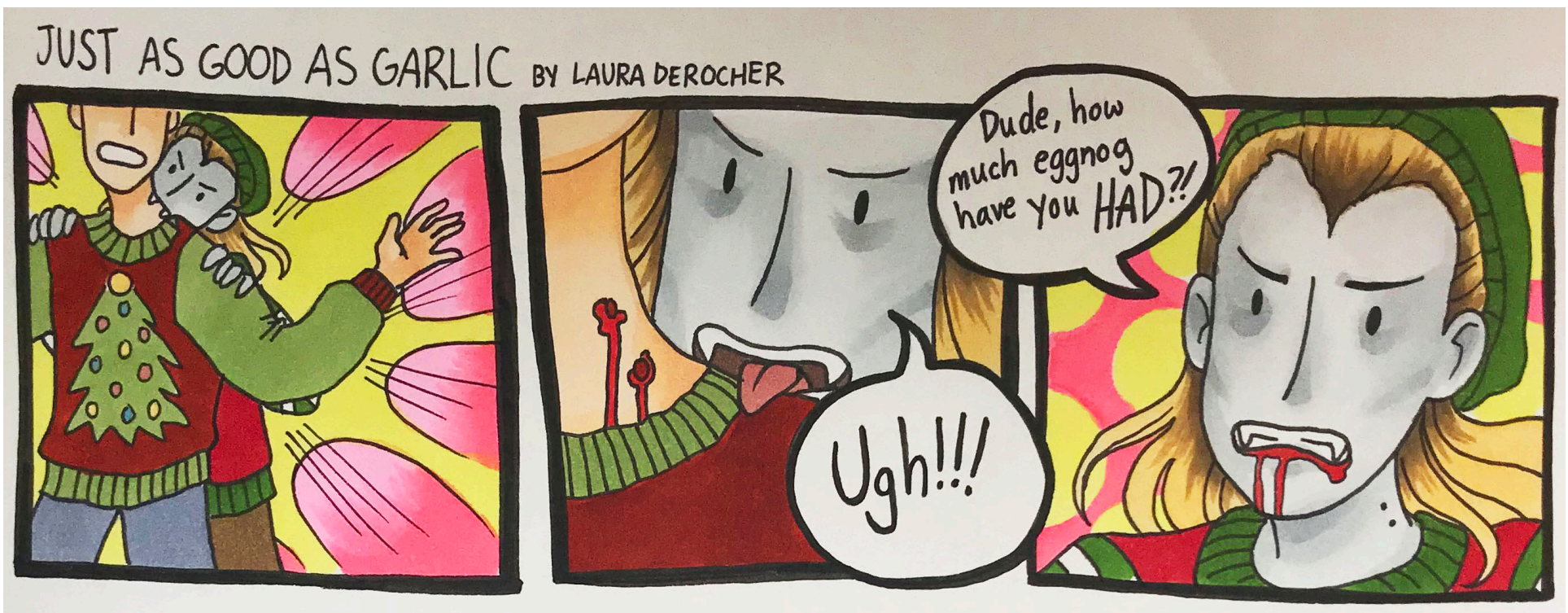
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Despite the fact that Hanukkah and Kwanzaa are real holidays, there is a staggering lack of holiday specials around these holidays. Recently there have been strides towards making more inclusive holiday specials.

"Rugrats" is famous for the episode "A Rugrats Chanukah" acting as an introduction to the holiday for younger kids and it was included in TV Guides 1999 list of top ten best holiday specials. It tells the story of Hanukkah it a very digestible way – using the characters to act out the story. The B-plot emphasizes the meaning of Hanukkah and the importance of community.

If there's a lack of Hanukkah specials, there's more so a lack of Kwanzaa specials in the world. One of the ones many remember is episode of the Proud Family entitled "The Seven Days of Kwanzaa." In the episode, The Prouds learn about Kwanzaa through a homeless family who they offer to spend Christmas with. Throughout the episode they learn about what makes up the holiday – again teaching kids the importance of a holiday.

Holiday specials are an important part of the season, never failing to get viewers in the mood for celebrating their favorite holiday. For a full list of holiday specials that I recommend, go to The Alabamian website to read more.



Horoscopes

By PEYTON LANG

Aries ♈ "Carol of the Bells," my favorite version personally is by the Bird and the Bee. You're intense and dynamic and enjoy music that can match your energy. "Carol of the Bells" is a classic, and honestly, what an honor.

Taurus ♉ Taurus is a dedicated and reliable sign. "I'll Be Home For Christmas" by Elvis Presley is a great song for a Taurus trying to get home this Christmas! Family is very important to Taurus and there's no doubt that all they want to do during this busy season is get home and surround themselves with loved ones.

Gemini ♊ "Don't Shoot Me Santa" by The Killers. First of all, it's not generic like most holiday jams. It's a little bit edgy for Christmas if you ask me. Anyways, the dialogue between Santa and the lead singer is Gemini's personalities coming back and forth at each other. This is not shade, I promise! But, isn't it fun to think about?

Cancer ♋ Cancers tend to be emotional and sympathetic. Kacy Musgraves wrote a song for her fans who don't always have the easiest time during the holidays called "Christmas Makes Me Cry." If this song doesn't pull on your heartstrings a little, I don't know what to tell you. You might be Scrooge himself.

Leo ♌ Leos are loyal and dedicated souls. "All I Want For Christmas Is You" by Mariah Carey is a great choice for them as they're very dedicated in their friendships and relationships. One thing Mariah has in common with Leos? Lots of passion and charisma! This one will have you singing at the top of your lungs in the car this season.

Virgo ♍ Virgos appreciate music that calms the nerves! "Joy To The World" by Sufjan Stevens is soothing and calm. Because Virgos are diligent by nature, they enjoy music that is smooth and gentle that can be played in the background while working or finishing up last minute Christmas tasks!

Libra ♎ Libra has a very special appreciation for harmony which makes them very easy to communicate with. In this song, Eartha Kitt tells her lover exactly what's on her Christmas list. The classic, "Santa Baby" is your song, Libra! Partnership plays a huge role in your life and this playful, romantic bop was made for you.

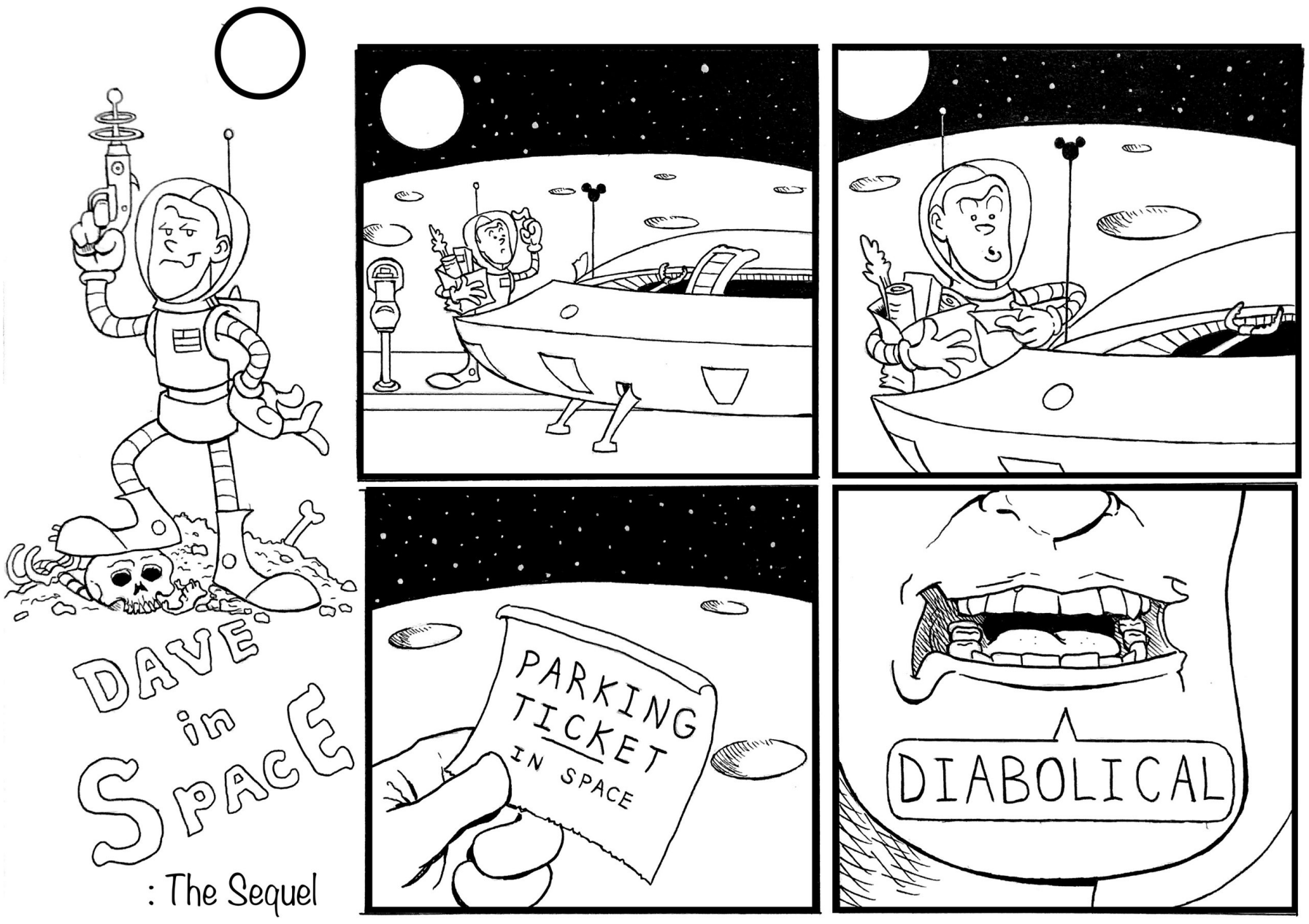
Scorpio ♏ "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch" by Tyler The Creator, which he did for the animated movie. Much like the Grinch, Scorpios aren't afraid to be trailblazers and march to their own drum. This version Tyler did is so fun and will instantly make you want to dance.

Sagittarius ♐ This song is all the happiness the holidays has to offer. "Wonderful Christmastime" by Paul McCartney, my personal favorite, is perfect for a Sag! It's optimistic and connects so much happiness to this time of year. They have big spirits and this is definitely a spirited song.

Capricorn ♑ Capricorns are responsible and good at managing. If they ask you for your holiday plans, it's probably because they're trying to make a schedule for you. With that, our Christmas song is "What Are You Doing New Years Eve" by The Head and The Heart. New Years also happens to fall during Cap season, which we all know is a Cap's favorite season!

Aquarius ♒ Aquariuses tend to be progressive, humanitarians and intellectuals. During the time this came out, it was a big conversation for all! The Aquarius song is "Happy Xmas (War is Over)" by John Lennon. We all know that Aquarius loves to fight for a good cause. This song was used as a protest song against the Vietnam War and has since become a standard, but still a powerful and beautiful Christmas song.

Pisces ♓ Last, but definitely not least, "Last Christmas" by Yoke Lore is your song, Pisces! Sentimental, romantic and selfless are words that can be used to describe Pisces and this song is about someone who continues to give their love to someone even though they know it might not be returned. Even with not so peppy lyrics, the instrumentation of this song is one to keep you dancing and singing along all through the season!



Spotify® PLAYLIST

By The ALABAMIAN STAFF

HOLIDAY HITS

"Zat' You, Santa Claus" by Louis Armstrong

In my mind, this song feels like a marriage of the Pink Panther theme and classic Christmas vibes. It is the perfect Christmas mystery song and stays upbeat and cheerful in spirit of the holiday, while simultaneously holding on to a suspenseful not keeping the listener wondering, "is zat you, Santy Claus?"

Sleigh Bells (Phatcap! Trap Remix) by Trap City, The Ronettes

If you love Christmas music that starts out innocently and then drops a sick beat, this is the song for you. I've been rolling hard with "Sleigh Bells" trap remix for about 3 Christmases now and it still hasn't let me down. Turn up the bass, throw on your favorite sweater and go wild this holiday season.

Mele Kalikimaka by Bing Crosby, The Andrew Sisters

This classic song is perfect for when you're dreaming of a white-sand Christmas. During the holidays, I only ever want to listen to oldies and when the normal staples start to get worn out, this Hawaiian classic keeps me going.

Feliz Navidad by José Feliciano

When I was a kid we had this song on a CD, which my grandma swears that I broke because I played so often. This song is endlessly joyful, and will always take me back to a place where the true definition of the holidays meant eating the candy my grandma made. This song is essential to my holidays, and it probably one of the biggest reasons I love Christmas so much.

Winter Hymnal by dodie

This is a cover of an old-school winter song, but it's incredible. In it, dodie does it completely acapella. Do I know what it means or what it's truly about? No, from what I gather, it's about a little boy who falls in the snow. The lyrics are dark, but her vocals on this song could genuinely cure my acne. They are that good. If you're looking for a song to put your lips to some hot cocoa and smile, look no further than YouTube's own dodie.

The Alabamian

Vol. 94, No. 8 WEDNESDAY, January 22, 2020

College Night goes to the capitol

By ARIEL HALL, Lifestyles editor



Meghan Hilley and a librarian at the Library of Congress holding "College Night: A Centennial Celebration."

In early December, junior communications major Meghan Hilley visited the capital with a couple of friends from church on a spur of the moment trip.

Overall, Hilley described her experience visiting DC as enjoyable and she expressed wanting to go back. Her favorite part of the trip though was being able to hand over the College Night book.

"We booked the flight the second week of November and went right after finals ended," she said.

Because of her job in the calendar offices a student assistant, Hilley has gotten to know Marion Brown, who is both Director of Events at UM and Director of College Night as part of the event's committee.

"We sell copies of the Centennial College Night book in the office and when I told her I was going to DC and that we had tours scheduled for the US Capitol and the Library of Congress, she was like 'wait, can you do something for me?'"

Once Brown gave her a copy of the book, Hilley brought along with her to the Library of Congress where she was able to hand it over.

Hilley explained the procedures of how getting the book in the Library and at first had been concerned that she wouldn't be able to get the book into the Library of Congress since she'd only brought one copy.

According to Hilley, when you present something to the Library that you typically have to have two copies of the material. When explaining to one of the librarian and however Hilley was told that because of the kind of book, you only had to have one copy because it's super rare.

"I told the woman at the desk about College Night and about Montevallo and she thought it was so cool and knew that they'd want it because it's an American tradition," explained Hilley. "It just blows my mind that it'll always be there, after I die, after all of us die."

Hilley first got involved with College Night her freshman year after being contacted by Gold Side. Since then, she has been heavily involved in the event and is especially looking forward to this year as she serves as Gold Side's Head of Tickets and Eligibility.

"This is where I decided to be," said Hilley. "There are so many supportive people."

"Once we got into this season, I made so many friends and just got to know the game. I'm honestly just excited to bond with everyone and come together as a side. I want to teach the new College Night babies what I love about Gold and about College Night in general," she continued.

The book is now located in the Library's folk life section, where the rest of the College Night archives are also kept. This archive is one of the biggest collections of ethnographic materials in the country.

"It was such an awesome moment because I got to represent Montevallo and tell people at the Library about a tradition that is really special to me," said Hilley. "It was such a surreal thing to be able to represent a whole university and something so historical and special to just this place."

NEWS *in* BRIEF

Rumors spread as Australian fires continue to burn.

Australia has been consumed in bush fires since September 2019. These fires have been considered some of the worst the country has seen with sources reporting a death toll of roughly 27 people.

The University of Sydney estimated that roughly half-a-billion animals have also died as a result of the fires. On Jan. 6, the New South Wales Police Department announced they had taken legal action against 180 people in connection to the fires. The department charged 24 with deliberately starting the fires, others were charged with lesser crimes.

Facebook adds slight policy change on political advertisements.

On Jan. 9, Facebook released a statement of changes it would make to its policies regarding political advertisements.

The social media giant has been facing backlash from regulators and political candidates after announcing that they would not fact check and regulate the political ads placed on its platform back in 2019. The company's most recent announcement followed suit stating that they will not fact check these advertisements, but would let users opt out of viewing the advertisements.

SGA Senate Meeting

By HARRISON NEVILLE. SGA columnist



Harrison Neville, SGA Columnist

With the start of the new year, SGA Senate has resumed meeting every Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. The topics covered touched on a wide variety of issues, including the Junior League Birmingham speaking on human trafficking and a possible replacement for Moe's.

The Executive cabinet reported that they are continuing to work on turning a room on the second floor of Farmer into a resource room for student organizations.

There were some new faces to accompany the new year. Mary White was inducted as the new Student Transfer Senator and Dria Hawkins was introduced as the new UPC coordinator.

Courtney Pete, from the Junior League Birmingham, came to speak to the Senate. The JLB has an anti-human trafficking committee working to raise awareness of trafficking in the Birmingham area in an effort to combat it.

According to Pete, trafficking is a major issue in the Birmingham area with a study done in 2016 by the University of Alabama estimating 5,000 victims traveling through the state per month.

Pete will return to UM to speak at a Town Hall scheduled for Feb. 26.

The Executive Cabinet announced that the Technology Advisory Council was working on plans to roll out Canvas 9, which will combine the roles of Canvas and Banner Self Service.

Campus Life reported they were still working to improve lighting around campus; they also stated that they were working on legislation to have fans installed in Myrick and Bibb Graves.

The Students Rights and Interests Committee reported that they had received complaints from art students due to the heating and cooling in Bloch being turned off over the weekends. The Committee also reported they were still working to have hand sanitizers installed in Davis.

The Academic Affairs Committee reported that it was still working on the technology bill from the previous semester, to install iPads in key locations for students to file constituent reports, but were running into issues due to funding and resources.

The next issue discussed was the residence maintenance fee, which is a $50-per-semester charge made as a part of every student's fees paid to the University.

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Tobacco age increases

By CALEB JONES, News editor

On Dec. 2, the president signed legislation that amended the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, making it illegal for retailers to sell tobacco products (Juuls, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, vapes, chewing tobacco etc.) to individuals under the age of 21. Before the amendment, Alabamians could buy tobacco products at 19 years old.

The new law is supposed to help tackle the issue of smoking among young adults, and to hopefully prevent the development of nicotine addictions.

In a news release from the Alabama Department of Public Health, Alabama Health Officer Dr. Scott Harris pronounce support for the increase in buying and consumption age.

"Most people who smoke start before they turn 21, and adolescent brains are especially susceptible to nicotine addiction," Harris stated.

Smoking continues to play a significant health risk in the United States. According to the Center for Disease Control, tobacco usage is the single largest preventable cause of death and disease in the U.S with more than 480,000 deaths from tobacco related health complications reported annually.

In Alabama alone, smoking kills 8,600 people each year. Smoking acts as an expensive killer too; the

Alabama Department of Public Health reports that that the state spends more than $1.88 billion annually on health care costs related directly to smoking.

Freshman sociology major Niko Kennedy thinks that smoking among young people does constitute a substantive risk.

"We were supposed to be the generation that was going to stop smoking. You know, then Juul and stuff, and e-cigarettes came out and it kinda just spiraled. Now middle schoolers are juuling and stuff," Kennedy said. But there is an epidemic, I will say there is no denying it."

Childhood tobacco use is in fact a problem in the U.S. According to the American Lung Association, in 2015, about half of middle and high school students reported using two or more tobacco products in the past 30 days.

The American Lung Association reports that everyday almost 2,500 children under age 18 try their first cigarette, and 400 of them will become daily smokers. Half will die from it.

This new tobacco age is not the first attempt at trying to stop childhood use. The Food and Drug Administration issued a policy that banned all e-cigarette cartridges with flavoring that appeals to children. Flavors affected included fruit and mint flavors. This only left tobacco and menthol flavoring.

But many students are skeptical about whether this law will be effective in stopping underage tobacco use, or if it will simply be ignored. Many believe that people will find a way around the law by getting older friends to buy for tobacco products for them.

"Is it harder? Yes," Kennedy stated. "But people are gonna smoke anyway. It's just how it is."

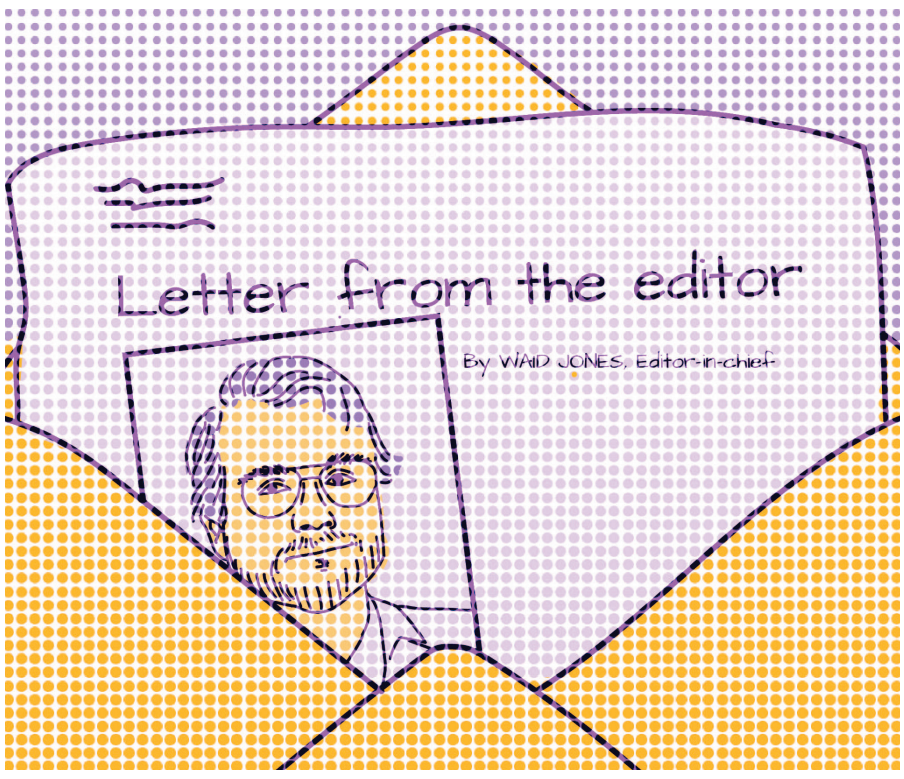
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Viewpoints



Trying new things often leads to varying amounts of success, but in the end, it has the ability to improving the situation. That's what the underlying story of this week's issue has been. In an attempt to prioritize the mental, physical and academic wellbeing of The Alabamian's staff, we altered our process. I'm not going to lie, it's been a bumpy road.

As someone who believes that nothing should ever be continued just because we've done it before I think that change is a good thing.

Looking critically at traditions and the processes that we've inherited is always an important thing when trying to move forward. That said, it is also important to meter these changes without giving a certain amount of deference to the past.

Both statements seem at first to be a contradiction, but when you really bare down on a tradition or process and understand its practical application and how it works within your system then you gain the ability to make the right changes.

I've tried to do this in my personal life and in my time as editor of The Alabamian. I'm not always particularly successful though.

Many of the processes that we use are so ingrained into our relationship of what we're doing, that making real changes can be incredibly difficult. Trying to implement new systems, like getting rid of GroupMe in favor of Slack, and implementing a task management system is slowly taking hold.

Small changes to efficiency have been stuck in my mind lately as we try to cut time off of how long it takes to produce a newspaper – something that is vital as we add more and more to an already seemingly full plate. This semester we hope to add podcasting to the ways that The Alabamian delivers news to you and further provide students with an experience that will prepare them for the professional world.

In this issue, you'll find some amazing reporting about whether or not you should be worried about getting drafted and excellent photography from the ribbon cutting and shirt reveal. There's a wide range of journalism and stories in this issue. So, you're guaranteed to find something that you're interested in.

Nicotine ban: Did it even help anyone?

By AUSTIN FREDRICK

The recent decision to raise the tobacco purchasing age to 21 has been touted as a major win for public health and safety, but is it causing more harm than good? We can all agree that putting anything in your lungs is bad for you, especially cigarettes.

No one is here to question the years of scientific evidence that brought to light of a variety of illnesses related to smoking cig- arettes, and the use of nicotine and tobacco products in general. But the effects of nicotine withdrawal are detrimental to your health, to say the least. Right now, hundreds of thousands, if not millions of people between the ages of 18 and 20 are suffering as a result of this recent move.

Symptoms of nicotine withdrawal include heightened anxiety, depression and irritability. Symptoms can start even on the first day and can prolong for months.

None of this sounds pleasant, does it?

This is the plight of many who had their privilege to legally consume nicotine removed out from under them overnight. There's no question that nicotine is highly addictive, and bad for your health, but as we can see from the symptoms listed above, withdrawal really isn't great for you either.

Now, it can be easy to say, well, you're no longer old enough to buy them, so quit. But a study done by the National Institute on Drug Abuse shows us that only about 6% of nicotine users are able to quit each year, and in most cases, it takes multiple tries to achieve this.

This leads to a bigger potential problem. A much scarier one. In 2019, we saw hundreds of deaths linked to vaping.

At first, health officials were unsure of what could be causing this outbreak, but upon further investigation, most of these illnesses and deaths were leaked to the purchasing of black market vaping products. They were mostly black market THC cartridges, but there was a small percentage that were attributed to bootleg nicotine products, and as a result of this new ban, we may see a rising demand in the black market for nicotine products.

While some people may not be seeking out pre-made black market products, they are synthesizing their own vaping products, strictly for personal use, but this can still be dangerous. I personally already have a family member that has turned down this path in order to get what they need.

Vaping products are heavily regulated in order to maintain the safety of those who use them. When we go about making our own, all of those carefully scientifically crafted formulas and ratios go out the door, and this can lead to complications.

America is one of the only countries in the world where the legal age to drink and use tobacco is 21. In most countries, by 18 you are considered a full adult and can drink and smoke as you please.

In many European countries, alcohol is something you experience with your family as a teenager, which allows you to better learn responsible use, leading to less accidents and public health and safety concerns.

As many have to wait until they are older to experiment with nicotine, they will be less educated of the dangers of its use and how it impacts them, leading to potentially higher rates of mortality due to the use of nicotine products, especially in the area of nicotine poisoning.

I would be neglecting a large argument for my cause if I didn't mention the military angle. For those unfamiliar with this one, the argument is, why should I be required to register for military drafting, which may lead to me being required to serve in the military, but I am not allowed to use alcohol, or even nicotine now, to relax.

This is a stretch, but it does hold some merit. It seems as though the government finds nothing wrong with sending 18 year olds to fight in war, but won't allow them to decide for themselves if they should partake in the risks associated with nicotine use. This is where we see the disconnect for many. Because, if this is where it starts? Where will we see it end?

I am one of the many affected by this new law. I quit cigarettes by taking up vaping two years ago, and I, luckily, had started to work my way off of vaping when the new law rolled around.

So, I am being forced to quit a little more abruptly than I would have liked, but it's all for the best.

But others are not as lucky. I know several people on our campus alone who have now fallen prey to unplanned nicotine withdrawal, and have to find a way to cope without any help from those who put them there. Even the cigarette alternatives such as vaping or nicotine gum are illegal to anyone under 21.

This is all in the name of public health, and no one can deny the teen nicotine epidemic, but are we crafting a new crisis in response? I'll let you decide.

Bad art is important

By ANNA GRACE ASKELSON

I hate how people don't make art unless they're good at it. Most people would say I make good art, and I'm generally the artistic friend in every group, something about my technicolor clothes, ever-present sketchbook and art minor gets that label across.

As the artist friend, I often hear the phrase "I wish I could do art, but I can't." And yet, so many of my "non-artist" friends draw constantly! They hand me Post-It doodles and nudge me in class to reveal their notebooks covered in patterns and caricatures. My non-musician friends sing in the car with me, and my non-writer friends still have ideas for stories. But they don't pursue their art, because they don't think their work will ever be good enough to be complimented or salable. Thus, they are not "an artist."

When we are children someone, a teacher, parent or perhaps even ourselves, decides if we are creative or not. If we are labeled as a creative, we learn to express ourselves. We go into art classes or music lessons. However, if the powers-that-be decide we would do better at math or science, we don't learn the tools of self-expression.

As we age through this system, we are also taught the misconception that art only holds value if it is good enough to be marketable. Perhaps you have been told that your prose is cliché and too sentimental, and no one would want to buy your hypothetical book, so stop wasting your time and stop writing it.

Do not stop.

This idea that your art holds value when and only when it is marketable simply is not true.

The truth is that all people are inherently creative and expressing that creativity is essential to who we are! Mathematicians and plumbers are born with the same longing for self-expression and reflection as professional poets and singers.

Whoever you are, the human experience transcends everyday language. To express love, longing or loss, we have to use writing or music or visual art. Whether or not the end product of creation is "good," expressing these feelings through the creative process, the drawing of the art, the singing of the song, helps us as humans to cope with our humanity.

In order for me to deal with the difficulty of adjusting to college life as a freshman, I have started to journal – and by journal, I mean write incredibly embarrassing love poetry in a 37-page-long Word document on my laptop. My poems are awful! I don't have form or rhythm, and they are so intensely personal that if anyone ever reads them I will throw up.

However, despite the awful finished product, by actively writing down my feelings I have learned to be vulnerable with myself. This act of creativity has helped me to confront my own emotions and heal in a way that would not have been possible without the act of making.

So yes, my poetry is unreadable, both because it is bad and because I have a lock on my computer to prevent peeping, but it still brings me a feeling of peace when I can't find it anywhere else. So, whether or not you have skill in your chosen creative field, expressing yourself through creation is valuable!

The crappy caricature of your professor that you pass to your sad friend in math class is important! Your screechy shower rendition of your favorite My Chemical Romance ballad from middle school holds value and your overly saccharine 10,000 word fanfiction about the Mandalorian raising baby Harry Potter isn't useless! Why? Because you made something! You pursued the deeply human act of creation, and even if no one will ever see, like or compliment your poetic ode to Gina Linetti from "Brooklyn nine-nine," you transformed your feelings, loves and interests into something tangible and real. And that's important.

For us all to cope with the daily minutia and the monumental highs and lows of human life, we must create. For some, that looks like huge hyper realistic paintings hung in a high end art gallery. For others, creation is making a Pinterest board for the half orc professional sweater knitter in your once monthly Dungeons and Dragons session. Both are valid and both are important because both help you.

No matter what you grew up thinking about yourself, no matter if your voice is screechy and your hands shaky, you are allowed to create. Please use this as your permission slip. If you end up making a masterpiece, that will be lovely! If you end up putting all your feelings into a new something that is ugly and awful and deeply uniquely yours, that might be even lovelier.

Letter from the SGA President

Hi everyone!

Welcome back to campus! I hope you all enjoyed winter break and are getting back into your Montevallo routines.

College Night is upon us! This is one of my favorite times of year because I love seeing campus so busy. Both Purples and Golds will be working hard to prepare for the season, and I cannot wait to see what you all do. When the late-night rehearsals, practices and hours spent building sets seem to be too much, think about that catchphrase you want to hear on Saturday night. Lean on your friends and remember to have fun. However, please also remember to take care of yourself! Eating healthy and getting enough sleep will help prevent sickness and allow you to think clearly. You will be so much more helpful to your side if you are rested and well.

As we get ready for College Night, don't forget to vote in Mr. and Ms. Montevallo elections! Elections will be held Jan. 27 – 29 on Falconlink. We have six amazing candidates this year who are all excited for the opportunity to represent Montevallo. If you have any questions about how to vote, please reach out and I will be happy to help!

With the semester officially back in full swing, remember that SGA is here to serve you. If you have any questions or concerns about things happening on campus, let us know! Our doors are always open, and we are always happy to help.

Finally, to my fellow graduating seniors: slow down and enjoy this semester. We'll blink our eyes and it will be graduation day! Spend some extra time with friends and make sure to take in everything you love about Montevallo. We are almost done!

Again, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I'm excited to see what all we accomplish this semester!

Olivia Eldridge

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News

SGA from page 1

The charge was set up by the Senate years ago as a way to raise funds to eventually construct an elevator in Napier residence hall.

Olivia Eldridge, the SGA president, announced that the fund currently holds $350,000. According to Eldridge the total amount needed to construct the elevator was expected to be around 1.2 million and that it was currently estimated that this would be reached by 2026.

A few years back the UM administration asked the SGA to allow the money to be moved to various other projects other than the Napier elevator. The SGA passed a resolution in response stating their desire for the money to stay with its intended purpose and for the fee to be increased to $75 to speed up the project. This increased fee would speed up the estimated time by two years, so construction could begin in 2024.

The resolution was never brought to the board of trustees, and therefore the fee was never raised to $75. The administration is planning on bringing the resolution to the board, and once again asked the Senate to consider allowing the fund to be used for other projects.

The Senate unanimously agreed that the past Senate resolution should stand and that the money should continue to be saved to build an elevator in Napier, and for the fee to increase to $75.

After the elevator is constructed in Napier, the fund will continue to be collected to facilitate the construction of elevators in Hanson and Tutwiler.

Eldridge also announced that Chartwell's and UM had found a potential replacement for the Moe's in Farmer. The franchise being considered is "Pita Pit" a small chain restaurant which offers a variety of the popular Mediterranean style cuisine known as pita wraps.

Eldridge was informed that it might be possible for the students to use swipes at Pita Pit if it were placed in Farmer. Though, these swipes would more than likely be limited to only three or four items off of the menu.

Voting for the Mr. and Ms. Montevallo elections will open on Falconlink on Jan. 27 and close on Jan. 29. The applications for SGA positions for both Senate and Executive Cabinet will open Feb. 10 and close March 6.

Smoke from page 1

Some students believe the law isn't sufficient enough to accomplish anything. Freshman coms majors Kevonte Hall believes that if the government truly wanted to decrease childhood tobacco usage then it would put more restrictions on tobacco companies.

"I think this law was more for Congress to say that they did something," Hall said. "If they were actually going to do something, they would target tobacco companies, vape companies and put more policies and stuff on them."

Tobacco companies have a variety of different marketing strategies they use to try and encourage new smokers, the American Lung Association reports. Many of these strategies are targeted towards specific age, gender and racial and ethnic groups. The industry was also one of the first to start crafting marketing strategies that target the LGBT community.

Studies show a correlation between the price of cigarettes and the number of young people smoking; every 10% rise in price causes a 7% reduction in youth consumption.

As such, the way tobacco products are priced can be a strategy to increase the number of new smokers. In 2016, the largest category of expenditures for marketing in the tobacco industry went towards giving price discounts to cigarette retailers. Price discounts combatted state cigarette sales taxes, and made cigarettes cheaper for young people to buy.

Young people aren't the only 'priority populations' tobacco companies target. African-Americans, Indigenous Peoples, women and the LGBT community are all demographics the tobacco industry deems essential to advertise towards.

The age restriction provision comes attached to a $1.4 trillion spending package that included $1.4 billion reserved for building a wall at the southern border of the U.S, as well as authorizes the Space Force branch of the military and grants paid parental leave to federal employees.



You're probably not getting drafted

By CALEB JONES, News editor

On Jan. 3, 2020, the US Pentagon ordered a drone strike near Baghdad International Airport, killing Iranian major general Quasem Soleimani.

Considered the second most powerful man in Iran, his death shocked leaders across the world, most of whom called for immediate de-escalation as the Iranian government vowed retaliation for the killing. Within hours of the strike, Twitter was awash with war memes and World War III was trending.

It was one of the rare moments where everyone on Twitter seemed to all be tweeting about the same thing, though takes were vastly different. Some denounced the Trump administration's unilateral military action made without Congressional approval, some called it a justified killing of a terrorist while others wondered how this would affect Iranian civilians, with many speculating the Pentagon's actions would to further conflict.

As tensions between the two countries were high, many believed that a draft was about to happen. That seemed rather unlikely to me the U.S. would start drafting people into the military. Although jokingly memed by many, there were some who truly speculated that it may be possible.

Reading those different takes, my own opinion was that a draft was highly unlikely. But as I wasn't an expert on the subject, I decided to see what some UM professors thought about the likelihood of draft.

Considering I wasn't well versed on the history of the draft, I went on a search for a history lesson that brought me to UM's own Dr. Jim Day, a professor of history at the University. Day currently holds the program's first endowed professorship–the Michael J. Grainger Professorship in Modern History. Day is also a West Point graduate and served 16 years in the U.S. Army.

The draft, also known as conscription, was used during the Civil War, WWI, WWII and the Vietnam War. All males were required to register for the draft through the Selective Service program at age 18, and are given draft code. This code identifies whether an individual was combat capable or not. They could then be conscripted into the army depending on the needs of the military.

The purpose of the draft is to secure sufficient manpower during wartime. However, throughout the years draft procedures have changed.

Studies found that because there was a college exemption, affluent men were able to go to college and avoid the draft, while poor people and black people, unable to afford college, were disproportionately conscripted. To make the draft more fair, it turned to a lottery-based system in the later days of the Vietnam War.

Though President Reagan reinstituted the draft, the army converted to an all-volunteer force during the Nixon Administration in the early 1970s. While still around, the draft has not been used again since the Vietnam War.

Day does not believe that a draft is likely in this day and age.

"Our society is used to the all-volunteer force, and we haven't had any wars recently on the scale of World War II that required nation-wide mobilization," Day stated.

Apart from the draft being generally believed as being unnecessary and obsolete, Dr. Carl Doerfler, a professor of political science at UM, believes that the all-volunteer army is superior to a draft based one. From a morale standpoint a volunteer army is better than one where people are forced into military service.

The ever-growing technical aspect of war in this day and age is another reason the draft is unlikely, according to Doerfler.

"It's not 200 years ago where you're sending wave after wave of guys into the fray," he stated. "The military is different these days."

Doerfler remarked that though unlikely, if the U.S were to conscript soldiers in this age, many generals believe people might be more critical of the military moves the country makes. The same way anti-war protests happened during the Vietnam War, people whose children would be forced into service would be more likely to question U.S operations in different countries.

When you take into consideration for instance the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, many Americans couldn't say without a shadow of a doubt why there is still a U.S presence in the Middle East. For some people who don't have children in the military, they may be completely oblivious to the fact that these conflicts are still occurring or what they're about.

There is speculation that moving back to a draft would make people more politically aware of these conflicts, and more likely to speak against these wars and military operations that don't quite make sense.

"It looks like we choose to remove dictators from regions where there are a lot of resources a lot of the time," he said. "For some reason, you know, if a dictator is in a country that is not as resource rich, well then, they can maintain their sovereignty and we won't interfere with that."

As long as the U.S. has a working volunteer army capable of meeting the military's needs, it is unlikely that the draft will be utilized. So, for now, unless things change drastically, draft memes are just memes.

Montevallo Makers

By JAMIE BROWDER, Managing editor of content

When Casie Tate opened The Art Studio in downtown Montevallo six months ago it was fueled by her love of teaching crafts and of the city itself.

Tate and her husband Lee have been living in Montevallo for 10 years. They were brought to the area because of Lee's career with the sheriff's office in Shelby County.

"We've always lived in Shelby County, but we fell in love with Montevallo," shared Tate.

Originally, The Art Studio found its home in Calera, which is where it was located for two years before she moved the store to its teal building on Middle Street.

Tate expressed that Montevallo's environment just fostered something different and lively that her studio business was looking for.

"People always talk about there being a 'Hallmark feel' to downtown, so I feel like there's definitely that element to it," said Tate. "There's just a lot of people around, so it makes it easy for people to see that we are here."

She explains that the community and the events held in Montevallo help provide a good way to showcase arts.

Most of what Tate teaches at The Art Studio are beginner level classes that help people start to have an understanding of art and what it means to be "creative."

"It's kind of a mixture between a regular art studio and a 'paint and sip' type studio," said Tate.

Tate shared that while she loves her repeat customers because most have become friends of hers, she'd also like to welcome any new people to join her art classes.

"I want The Art Studio to become a common place that people feel like they can come to on a Friday or Saturday night to do projects and have fun."

The Art Studio offers classes to young children and hosting parties and gatherings for adults.

Art classes are $15 for children and $35 to 60 for a two-hour workshop geared towards adults.

"It's been fun, everybody has welcomed us in with open arms," Tate expressed. "When we said we were moving last year, the immediate response was 'I'm so glad you're coming to Montevallo."

Tate shared that it isn't just the love of art that keeps her coming into the studio every morning, it's also the thrill of showing others what they are capable of.

"Just being able to pull those creative juices out of somebody and them seeing that is possible to be creative is what gets me up every single day," shared Tate.

Tate's advice to anyone considering joining one of her art classes or practicing art in general is to take a step back, be able to laugh with mistakes and accept that talent is something that can be practiced and earned.

"I always have people tell me they can't even draw stick figures, and my response is always 'well, great, you're in luck, we aren't drawing stick figures today," said Tate.

She promises that no one needs experience to take art classes, and she is willing to walk her students through the process of creating whatever it is they want to make.

Tate's studio offers t-shirts, pre-made art, kits to complete certain projects and other household decorations such as holiday ornaments.

To contact the studio, prospective clients can call at (205) 369-2195 or visit montevalloartstudio on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

The studio is located on 730 Middle Street and is open Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

DUELING OPINIONS

Harry Styles “Fine Line”

By JAMIE BROWDER, Managing editor of content

I would just like to preface this with that I did not fully love “Fine Line” when it came out, but over a month since its release, each track has grown on me in varying ways. I’ve come to a very solid conclusion that I absolutely love this album.

The title track itself, “Fine Line,” leaves a little to be desired as far as excitement, but I think it bridges the gap between the more upbeat songs such as “Sunflower vol. 6” and “Falling.”

The album begins beautifully, with a song I could only describe as having a very mysterious and Fleetwood Mac vibe. “Golden” is the perfect, fall in love with me and visit a fortune-teller, while waiting to find out if our love will last kind of song.

Artistically, I think he took a lot of risks trying to make this album sound different from other mainstream music. To some, it might make the tracks seem weird or undesirable, but the unique quality of each song just adds to the authenticity of the album as a whole.

“To Be So Lonely,” with its wavering chords and rising and falling vocal notes gives it a very dreamy tone. Styles did a great job experimenting with different string instruments within this album, and in particular, this song.

I don’t think, based on the tracks that were released as singles, we could have guessed how sad and slow some parts of the album truly were going to be.

I tend to like songs that are a little more upbeat, but the way the album dips into despair is really satisfying. “Falling” is the perfect heartbreak song, and it makes me want to lie in the rain. It just hurts so good.

Certain parts of the album could be considered ‘boring’ or slow, but I think that’s the perfect opportunity to see where the lyrics are lacking. He makes up for it with beautiful composition. I cannot express how well I believe he utilized such a wide variety of instruments and sounds to craft this album.

“Watermelon Sugar” makes me so happy. I don’t know how Styles knew we all deserved a little bit of serotonin that this song is sure to bring. It just makes me crave a July sunset.

The only song I dislike more than the others is “Treat People with Kindness.” My biggest complaint is that the chorus felt like such a cop out because it feels too simple. He could have used vocals that would complement the rest of the song much better.

I really like Harry Styles. He’s a great performer, and the vocals on this album do not lack.

The entire album just makes me feel like the sun is hitting my face. Styles is someone who is still trying to earn his spot on his own in the music industry, and is doing such a good job developing his own unique sound.

What I like about this album is that each track is distinctive and feel like something only he could make. With its strange and happy vibes to its deep and depressing lyrics, it very much defines what I like to see artists doing when they are creating their own sound.

By ARIEL HALL, Lifestyles editor

When One Direction was in its prime, I knew it was going to be Harry Styles that went solo. He’s got the looks and charm that a grade-A boy band needs for a front man. But is he a good soloist? Debatable. His self-titled debut album came out in 2016 and since then, Styles has built a strong fan base. When “Fine Line” was released, I went in with an open mind, but in the end, I wasn’t impressed.

While I think that Harry Styles is a talented performer, I don’t think this album did as well with showing off his talents as it could have. Many of the tracks seemed unbalanced, with either too heavy vocals or tracks like “To Be So Lonely” that drown out his voice with instruments.

The first track “Golden” was filled with background vocals and repetitive lyrics that made me think that people only like this album because it’s Harry Styles. If this were any other performer, many would think that there’s nothing particularly special about this album since it feels like every other pop album. Rather than making a statement like a good album should, it’s the charm of Harry Styles that got this album on the top of the charts.

Though there are upbeat summer songs like “Watermelon Sugar” and “Adore You,” going from track to track felt like I was listening to the same overproduced song. One of the biggest problems I had with this album was the inconsistency. Either the songs sounded the same, or they sounded like someone different altogether. “Cherry” and “Canyon Moon” sounded like a folksy indie singer, very much different than the same singer that busted out “Kiwi.”

The songs on “Fine Line” are incredibly catchy with the almost formulaic product, but I think this album missed the mark. While I think that he’s exactly the kind of artist that belongs on stage in front of a bunch of screaming teenage girls, Overall, it tries too hard to be different to the point where it feels like someone threw something at the wall and hoped it stuck.

It makes me sad that pop artists now are so considered with getting to the top of the charts that they are throwing songs together. There’s no story element to this album, or at least not a clear one, and I think that Harry Styles could’ve done something so interesting while still continuing to have a more niche sound.

One of the only songs I enjoyed on this album was “Falling.” With the melody and melancholic lyrics about heartbreak, this song seems much more authentic and less like the commercialized synth pop that made up the rest of the album. The only other song I liked was the last song and title track “Fine Line,” which I think wrapped up the album in a neat bow.

In the end, listening to this album was an exhausting haul through a fog. “Fine Line” felt more like a thirty-minute-long song than a collection of songs, with some that are totally forgettable like “She” and “Sunflower Vol. 6.” At the end of the day, there’s no song from “Fine Line” that I would save to my playlist and this is an album I’d rather leave behind.

REBUTTAL

Harry always seems to push boundaries when it comes to his own sound.

The repetitiveness of “Golden” is what gives it that dream-like state, like waves hitting you over and over. This track sways, in my mind, the same way a Fleetwood Mac song does. With wavering chords and crooning vocals, it really just pulls me in.

I do not believe that it is his charm that makes people like this album so much. Do I think it helps? Yes, however, I am not a follower of Harry, nor was I ever a One Direction fan. If I heard this album without knowing who he is at all, I think the messages and the overall feel of the music would hit just the same. To say that some might only like it because his recognizability seems unfair, and downgrades his true talent.

The variety of the album, as Ariel mentioned is how some songs just seem like they came from different artists, and I think is what gives it its charm. Not every song sounds the same, which I’m glad for. Each one has its own distinct sound, but as I said previously, it also seems as if all of the songs blend together perfectly.

It’s easy to get stuck on the content of one track or even misunderstand an album if you listen to it on shuffle. I don’t think this is one of those albums where you can necessarily pick and choose certain songs. It needs to be enjoyed in its entirety.

It’s important when taking a step back to see the entire album, as a work of art that ebbs and flows from one feeling to the next.

With all of that being said, I still recognize why people love this album. It’s a new take on the kind of music we’re used to listening to on the Top 40. Though I am not the biggest fan of this album, I still applaud Harry Styles for trying something new, something that I’ve never seen before.

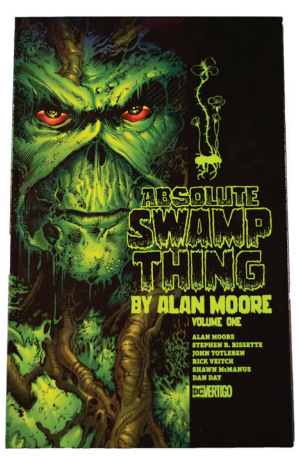
He took a lot of risks on this album and that’s what I think that people love the sound so much; every track comes with a new story, a new flavor. While the tracks seemed unbalanced, the music was incredibly produced with the eccentric vibes throughout. Harry Styles is making his own mark on pop music and I commend him for having such a wide variety. No matter what kind of music you’re into, you’re bound to find at least one track that you like.

While I disagree with Jamie’s opinions on the album, I think we can both agree that Harry Styles is starting to do something in pop music. He really pulls you into a world, though chaotic at times, and that is what makes him so cool and enjoyable to his fans.

And what’s to say that this album doesn’t eventually grow on me? Despite all that I disliked, I still think that the beats have a good flow and the songs are undeniably catchy and the more I listen to the album, the more I get it all. I have no doubts that Harry Styles will continue to thrive a solo artist and performer, and maybe one day, I might even change my mind about what he has to say.

What we read over the holidays

By The Alabamain staff

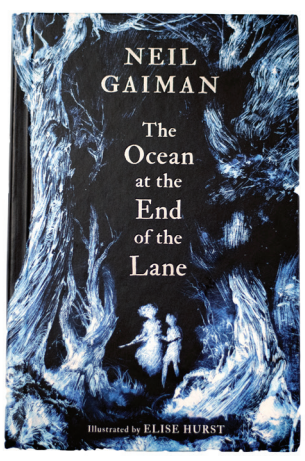


Alan Moore’s “Swamp Thing” run is one of my favorite set of comics ever, and this new edition in DC’s oversized absolute edition does the original justice. The book takes a traditional question of science fiction – what is human – and examines it in a nuanced and beautiful way. The story follows Alec Holland after he’s become the Swamp Thing and wrestles with whether or not he retains his humanity as a plant creature. The paneling helps the story flow and gives the reader a clear flow through the work. It’s also easily accessible if you’re looking for a comic book, but want a heady subject.

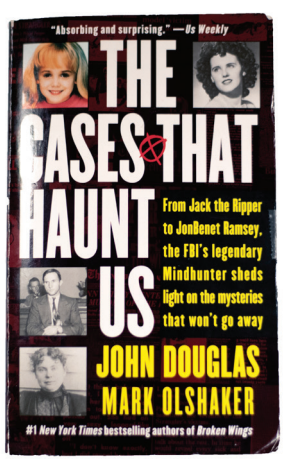


I’ve loved the Ninja Turtles ever since my cousin first showed me the old 90s cartoons when I was a kid. After years of soaking up all the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles content I could, I eventually stumbled upon the source material that. In the comics the turtles used their weapons to frequently kill their opponents, instead of just beating them up and letting them try again later. The world created in these comics is amazing and in this issue the turtles fight against far more ridiculous foes than they normally face off against. I highly recommend these for anyone who wants to peer into the origins of the heroes in a half shell.

I fell in love with this book when I read it two years ago, which is why when I found it again at a bookstore over the break, I almost cried. The edition I bought includes beautiful illustrations that depict each scene that Gaiman describes. It’s such an immersive experience because his words are already so expressive, and the illustrations just add so much more to the narrative. This book is about a particularly sad man who rediscovers his youth and love thanks to a lake that he and his friend use to play at as children. Gaiman builds worlds and tells stories like no one else.



Over the break, I rediscovered my love of true crime and in that rediscovery, I wanted to read about unsolved cases. In this book, former FBI agent John Douglas and filmmaker Mark Olshaker explore some of the most notorious murder cases of all time. The two of them reintroduce evidence and investigate suspects as they pursue the truth. My favorite case that’s discussed in this book is the Zodiac killer who was active in Southern California in the late 1960s and still remains unidentified. Though this book is incredibly twisted, it’s fascinating to uncover the darkest parts of the human mind.





By ALEX WARREN

Aries ♈ Invest in your educational or career endeavours this week Aries! It will pay off in the coming months. Mind people or activities that might harm your future!

Taurus ♉ Focus on your relationships in the coming weeks. The people important in your life will be there if you need to lean on them.

Gemini ♊ Good fortune is coming your way Gemini. Remember to stay humble and speak kind words. Working well with others is the key to the things you've been looking for.

Cancer ♋ Now is the time to do some internal reflection Cancer. After thoroughly weighing all options, make a choice for what's been bothering you.

Leo ♌ A new job or role has been putting you under a lot of stress lately. Take a breather and take care of yourself. Remember, whether things are positive or negative is completely up to how you see them.

Virgo ♍ While you may not feel overwhelmed right now, don't fall behind in your work. Don't fall into the temptation of procrastination and you will see success!

Libra ♎ You have the opportunity to pursue romantic relationships in the coming weeks Libra! Don't rush into anything, but keep your mind open to those who wish you well!

Scorpio ♏ The adversity you have been dealing with recently will soon come to an end, Scorpio. Do not become greedy with you new found fortune, but appreciate it!

Sagittarius ♐ Go home sometime. Now is a time for leaning on your family and close ones. Save your money in the coming weeks, you may need it later.

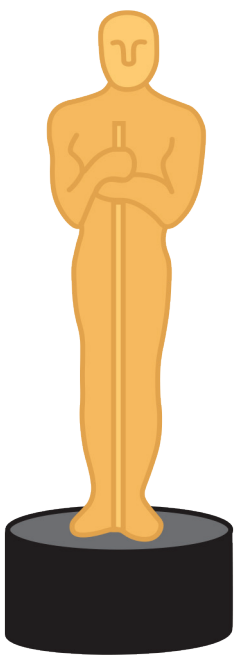
Aquarius ♒ Now is the time to be a leader. Your charisma is shining. Do not let it go to your head, however. Pay attention to others, and consider every side of the story before making a decision.

Pisces ♓ You've been doing a lot of work in the spotlight, but now is the time to back up. Take this time to reflect and plan. You deserve a break, but be productive.

Capricorn ♑ You will have good times with friends soon Cap. Appreciate them, and do not be afraid to ask for help.

Your Oscars primer

By WAID JONES, Editor-in-chief



Each year, the Oscars become a little less relevant. So this rundown exists to let you know what you should watch, what not to watch and where the most drama is most likely to be.

Best Picture

Ultimately, this category is going to come down to Quentin Tarantino's "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood" and Bong Joon-Ho's "Parasite." One of these films shows true achievement in film making and the other one was custom designed to win an Oscar – it also happens to be good.

I would not be surprised if Tarantino's film about Hollywood in its heyday sweeps both best picture, original screenplay and costume design. The film ticks all of the boxes that the Hollywood Foreign Press Association seems to always award. Is it about Hollywood? Yep. Does it have drama? Yep. Is it a period piece? Yeah. Does it have an actual message that they'd have to deal with the political fall out of? Not really.

The film is set in the transition of Hollywood in the late sixties and features Roman Polanski's wife before her untimely and mysterious death. Also, we have some murderous hippies and the Manson murders prominently featured.

Other movies nominated that deserve to be here are Greta Gerwig's "Little Women," Noah Baumbach's "Marriage Story," Taika Waititi's "Jojo Rabbit" and rounding out the actually deserving list is Martin Scorcese's 3-hour biopic "The Irishman."

That leaves us with interesting questions about Best Picture and the films that probably shouldn't be here: "1917" and "Ford v. Ferrari." To be honest, I can't really give you a reason why a movie about Ford's 1964 LeMans win is here. It just is and everyone is surprised.

Sam Mendez's "1917" is the annual "oh, wow, they did that" pick. Reaching back in time to when Hitchcock shot a movie in technically "one-take." This is just here because it's a cool concept with a halfway decent implementation, so unless you are a die-hard cinema fan this movie doesn't matter.

Other Notables

After coming off of a Golden Globe, Best Foreign Film win Bong Joon-Ho's "Parasite" is a shoe in for the Oscar's parallel category. The Korean director's thrilling class drama exudes both writing and directing prowess. It effortlessly builds and carries suspense out and the media buzz surrounding the director's comments mean that the film almost has the category locked up.

Starring Willem Defoe and Robert Pattinson, "The Lighthouse" was designed to win Best achievement in Cinematography. Shot in 4:3 Oscar Ratio and black-and-white it uses this outdated ratio to assist in building suspense; however, it has some stark competition in Sam Mendez's "1917."

Mendez – previously of "Skyfall" fame – worked with Roger Deacon, whose work has spanned from the new Blade Runner to dozens of beautifully shot films joined forces to create a "one-take-film" which they then cut to pieces. So, while each take of this film took over an hour ultimately, they lost the magic of the one-take when they awkwardly spliced it together.

Despite its flaws, it is likely that this kind of flashy decision can make its way to an Oscar, which means spectacle and oddity has come to often define the category.

The Snubs

While Greta Gerwig's film "Little Women" was nominated for the top prize, the director was snubbed for her own contribution to the film's success. Gerwig's adaptation of the Louisa Mae Alcott's 19th century novel came in late last year, but was well received by critics and anyone who need's Gerwig's contribution to the film proved should just watch again and they will realize how many big-names are on screen at all times.

The director's ability and accomplishment of wrangling this cast was one of the most fantastic pieces of directorial brilliance that happened this year.

An Oscar nomination also eluded Jordan Peele's "Us." While not as good as his 2017, "Get Out," "Us" was exceptionally better than "Ford v. Ferrari."

"The Last Black Man in San Francisco" directed by Joe Talbot's lack of a nomination proves that the Oscars doesn't care about real films highlighting race and continues to feel that if they give a best picture nod to films that pretend to highlight black voices and stories once every twenty years that they can continue on their way. This nuanced look at gentrification and its effects on black communities deserved more recognition than it received.

Adam Sandler proved that he has range with his performance in "Uncut Gems." The prolific comedy actor's performance in the Safdi Brother's gritty drama about the New York diamond trade should have – at the very least – earned him a nomination even if he didn't win.

Lulu Wang's "The Farewell" stars Awkwafina as a 20-something Chinese American women who deals with her grandmother' cancer diagnosis. The twist to the movie that drives the knife deeper is the main character's family has elected to not tell her grandmother she's likely to die in only a few months. The actress's performance won her a Golden Globe and should have absolutely nabbed her an Oscar nom.

Activism

Expect one or more acceptance speeches or monologues to touch on Australian fires, impeachment and other issues. But, the most impactful message that the actors could highlight and really impact a conversation is on the failure of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association to value the input and contributions to filmmaking of women and people of color in the US.

No women were nominated for achievement in directing. Just take that in. NO WOMEN WERE NOMINATED FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN DIRECTING. I've already mentioned Gerwig's snub for directing and the complete omission of Wang's "The Farewell" from the night but there were countless other whose contributions were ignored.

But that's not where it stops, so many of the year's best movies were directing by an ever-growing collection of female directors, and this is something that we're definitely going to hear about at some point in the night.

Spotify® PLAYLIST

By The ALABAMIAN STAFF

BEST ANIMATED SERIES OPENERS

Today's Gonna Be A Great Day - Bowling For Soup

The theme song to "Phineas and Ferb", this song brings up so many memories and even though I'm an adult, I have no shame in admitting that I still jam to this song whenever I watch this show.

Chip 'N' Dale's Rescue Rangers Theme - Composed by Mark Muller

This is one of my all-time favorite theme songs, in large part because I think it's a really good song period. Not only does it have a catchy chorus, the instrumentals are well put together as well. The best part of the song is the way that it matches up with the content of the show. No matter what the crime, the heroes will step up to save the day.

Gravity Falls Main Title Theme - Brad Breeck

Beginning with what sounds like a keyboard and a series of rhythmic clapping there is a build up to the meat of this song: the whistling. The whistling paired with clapping during the song gives it an aura of mystery and sense of outdoorsy wonder, as if it's the theme to a story you'd hear by the fire on a summer camping trip.

Ducktales Theme and Credit Medley - Jake Kaufman

Whether it be from the 2017 reboot or the original 1987 version, the theme song to "Ducktales" has unrivaled energy. From the opening note you know that you're going to have a fun time with this show. It's a total earworm – the moment you hear it it lives in your brain for the rest of time.

I Wanna Be Famous - Chris Allen Hess

This song is a perfect fit for the 2007 masterpiece of animation "Total Drama Island" (and all of the Total Drama's that follow it) because it captures exactly what reality TV is all about. The lyrics are simple and a little shallow, and the music is catchy – And that's really all you need.

Darkwing Duck Theme - Disney Afternoon Studio Choir

As the spiritual successor to "Ducktales", it had to have an epic theme song. It's funkier than most, with a great brass section that immediately causes you to want to dance in your chair.

We Are the Crystal Gems - Cast

"Steven Universe" is a beautiful show, and it's summed up well in its theme song. The in-universe story behind the theme song is adorable as well and it's the perfect descriptor for what you're going to watch.

Pokemon World - Russel Velazquze

It's hard to pick the best "Pokemon" theme out of the twenty something that exist, but if I had to, I think it would be "Pokemon World" from the second season. It sums up the idea behind the brand perfectly, as it's about having fun and being the best!



ASK ? ARIEL

By ARIEL HALL
Lifestyles editor

Dear Ariel,

I've been dating someone for a while and we're starting to get serious. However, I'm not sure how to deal with us having differing political views. I'm politically active, but my partner isn't.

I don't want it to become a problem in the future if we don't talk about it or avoid it altogether. Any advice on how to handle the situation?

Thanks,
Politically Petrified

Dear Politically Petrified,

This seems like a complicated situation, but when it comes to controversial things like politics and religion, you really have to evaluate how important it is to you. When it comes to politics, some couples aren't super politically active and so they can put these beliefs aside. There are some people that are very firm in their beliefs.

I know that for some, especially those who identify as LGBTQ+ or another minority, it is especially hard to set aside someone's beliefs if they disagree with yours. Are your ideas too different?

My biggest advice in this situation is to have an open conversation about it. Sit down with them and lay out all the cards on the table. After that, it's all up to you. Communication is key in a sticky situation like this.

Hope this helps.
Sincerely,
Ariel

Dear Ariel,

I am currently a junior and because of this, I am trying to get more experience in my field before graduating next spring. Right now, I just feel like I'm running out of time.

Any advice on how to find an internship and what to do when I find one?

Thank you,
Desperate for Work

Dear Desperate,

As I am almost halfway through college, I've also been looking for internships lately and so are a lot of people, but don't fret. There are so many opportunities out there.

The first thing I'd advise before searching for an internship is to make sure your resume is up to date, and if you don't have one, get one. For me, I went to the Career Development Center here on campus which I found to be quite helpful.

As far as finding opportunities, there are a couple different ways that you can start your search. For one, starting online is always a quick way to find out what's near you. That way, you can find things specific to what you're looking for.

Another way to start looking for internships is to talk to some professors. In my experience, professors in your department are probably in the know of what kind of jobs might be available near you and would fit what you're looking for. Plus, they might even be able and willing to provide a good word for you.

Good luck on your search!
Sincerely,
Ariel

Dear Ariel,

I'm a senior here at the University and I'm graduating in a few months. When's the best time to start looking for jobs? How do you manage anxiety during the last semester if don't have a job or grad school lined up?

Thank you,
Soon to Graduate

Dear Soon to Graduate,

Since I'm only a sophomore, I can't really tell you when the best time to look for jobs is. Honestly, I think this could be specific to your field; a theatre major might need to start their search earlier than an early education major.

However, I don't think there's such thing as too early. Putting your name out to a business or to whomever shows them that you're enthusiastic and you're willing to take initiative.

When it comes to dealing with anxiety, make sure to lean on those around you. Chances are that there's someone you know who feels the same or can at least empathize. Not having a plan for after graduation is daunting and while you are still searching for the right path for you, count on your friends and family.

As far as dealing with your last semester, the best advice I can give to you is to take everything one day at a time. Try not to stress out about a big assignment due in April and study for the exam next week instead. Remember that you only have one semester of college left and to make the most of it. Take a breath!

Sincerely,
Ariel

Dear Ariel,

It's finally College Night season and this is my first year playing. Since I'm a freshman, I am so excited to be a part of the experience, but I'm already having trouble balancing it all. Do you have any advice?

From,
Overworked Freshman

Dear Overworked Freshman,

Welcome to Montevallo and welcome to my favorite time of year. I know it can be overwhelming and stressful, but make sure to enjoy it while it lasts.

With that being said, make sure you're using your time wisely this season. If you have an hour or two between classes, then go ahead and get started on that five-page paper or that extra long assignment. Taking advantage of the minutes you do have really does help at the end of the day. That way, you can spend your time at pit chorus rehearsal or helping out in side space and not be thinking about what your professor meant in class that day.

Take it easy.
Sincerely,
Ariel

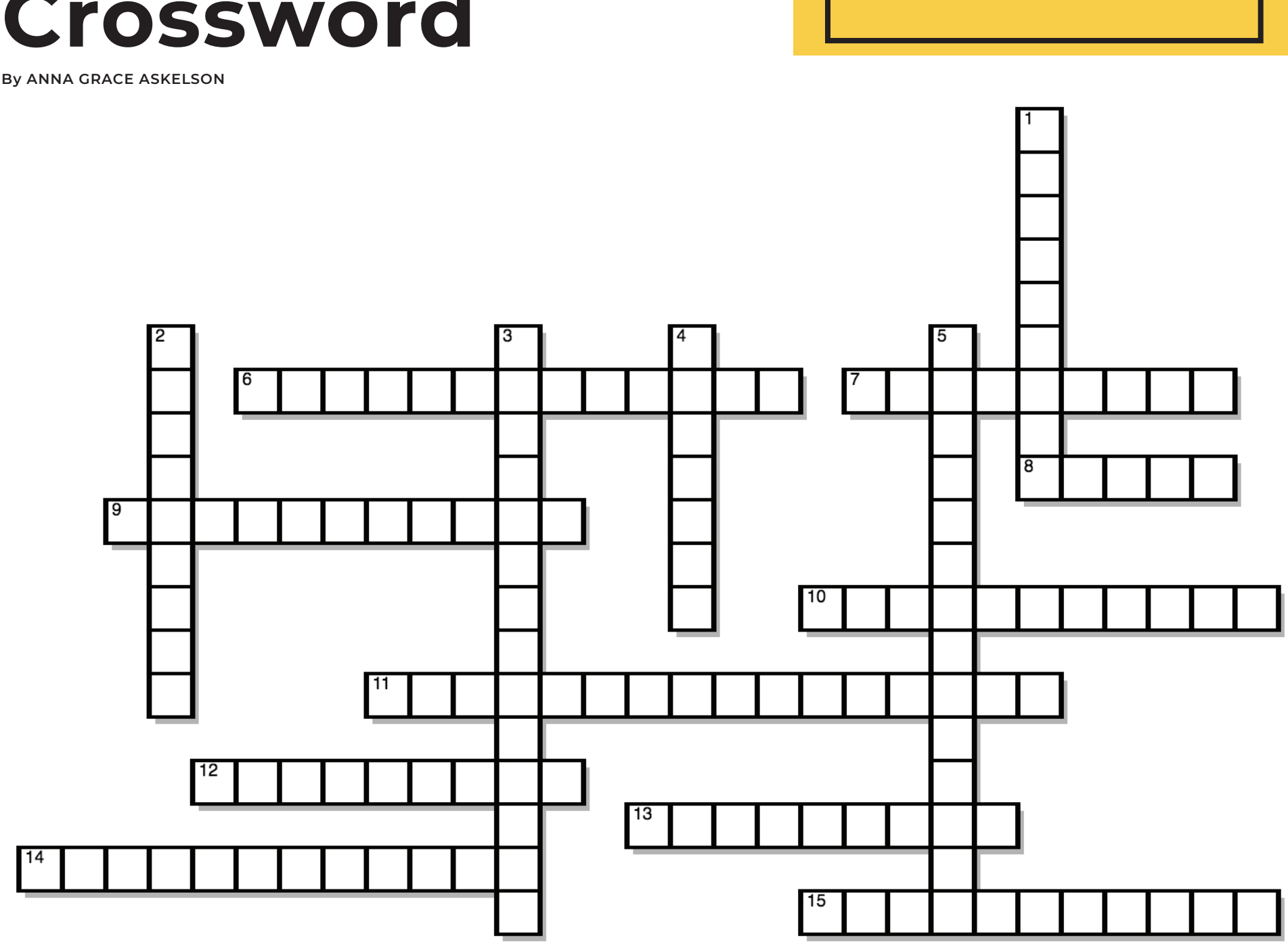
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Submit your questions to *alabamian@montevallo.edu* for a chance to be featured in our next issue!

Crossword

By ANNA GRACE ASKELSON



ACROSS

6. This character's theme describes him as willy, nilly and silly
7. "What's new?"
8. "Watch" out for aliens
9. This show has a tuba-led theme tune
10. It's "almost time" for this fantastical show about two siblings
11. 80's singer known for "Sailing" and "Arthur's Theme"
12. Fowl fables
13. Title of this cyborg detective
14. Clap along to this mysterious show's theme
15. This show's theme makes for a great ringtone

DOWN

1. This show's theme is a sea shantysing-a-long
2. "Watch out! Here comes the…"
3. Show featuring empathetic gemologists
4. The theme to this show is "the very best"
5. "1985", "Phineas and Ferb"

COLLEGE NIGHT

photos by KAT BELL



2020 College Night Leaders posing in newly revealed side shirts. From left to right, Alex Binion, Rylee Holt, Bria Owens and Dakota Patrick.



Bell Jackson and Gabrielle Marshall holding up newly revealed 2020 side shirts.



Alex Binion and Rylee Hold tying a ribbon around a tree on main quad during the 2020 ribbon hanging.



Purple Side circling up at 2020 ribbon hanging on Palmer steps.



Gold Side circling up at 2020 ribbon hanging on Palmer steps.



Bell Jackson, designer of the 2020 Gold Side shirt.



Macy Robinson and Licee Freeman holding new side shirts.



Purple Side and Purple Side leaders cheering before the 2020 ribbon hanging on Palmer steps.

Lifestyles



Mr. and Ms. Montevallo Candidates



Bria Owens, Speech and Language Pathology major.

FUN FACT: Bria was born on National Star Wars day.
Photo by: Kat Bell



Paige Wyatt, Speech and Language Pathology major.

FUN FACT: Paige has four siblings. The oldest is 31 and the youngest is 3. Photo by: Kat Bell



Sarah Engle, Communication Studies major.

FUN FACT: Sarah has broken every one of her toes.
Photo by: Kat Bell



Keontez Mitchell, History major.

FUN FACT: Keontez is working towards getting his pilot's license. Photo by: Kat Bell



Dakota Patrick, Musical Theatre major.

FUN FACT: He's a twin!
Photo by: Kat Bell



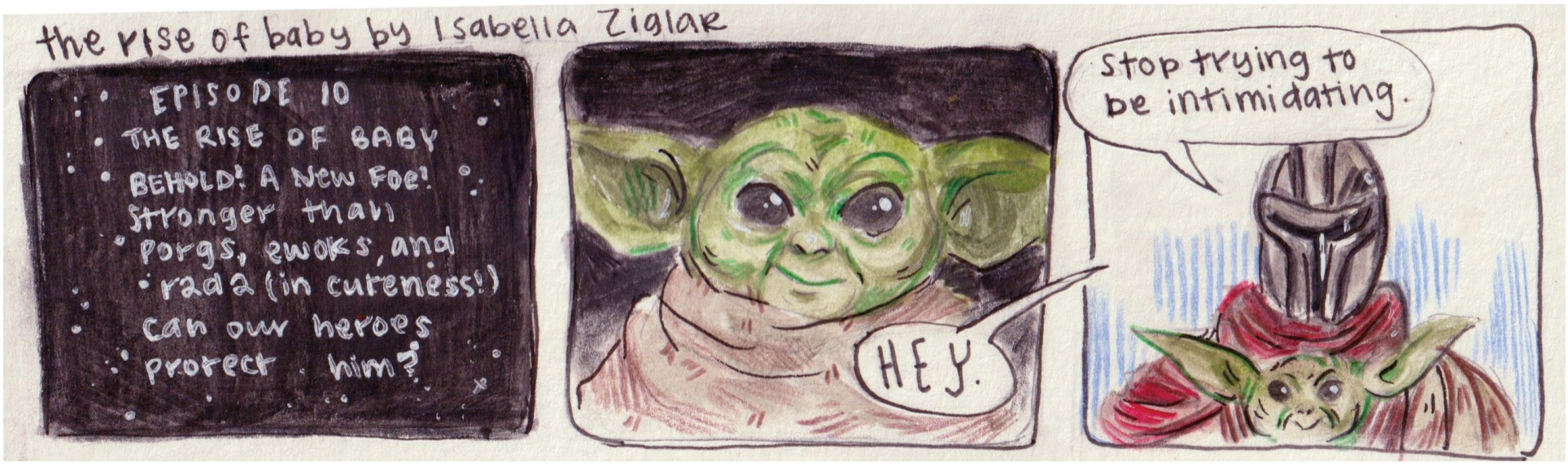
Jeff Odgers, Business Marketing major.

FUN FACT: Jeff has been bungee jumping, parasailing, sky diving and radio tower climbing but is terrified of heights.
Photo by: Kat Bell

Statement by SGA President, Olivia Eldridge

The titles Mr. and Ms. University of Montevallo are awarded to two seniors who the student body believes embody the image of Montevallo. The purpose is to recognize students who have contributed much to our Montevallo family and exemplify the qualities that we love about our university. The great thing about the election process is that every student can vote! All you have to do is log into Falconlink and the election portal will be on the home page. Elections begin Jan. 27 at 8 a.m. and end Jan. 29 at 5 p.m.

Comic



The Alabamian

Vol. 94, No. 9

WEDNESDAY, February 5, 2020

College Night: The game so far

Top Lelf: Taylor Rosser cheering for Gold Side at volleyball game.
Top Right: Maya Burke running with PV flag at peprally
Bottom Left: Sarah Clayton running with GV flag at women's basketball game
Bottom Right: Meagon Williams cheering for Purple Side at sign raising

Gold leads heading into shows

By ARIEL HALL, Lifestyles editor

College Night began with the annual Ribbon Hanging on Jan. 5, during which Gold and Purple Side adorn the campus with ribbons to signify the beginning of the season.

The 2020 side shirts were also revealed that Friday at the UM Bookstore.

While the cast and crew began to prepare for their productions, students on both sides also prepared for the athletic season and their artists began to plan their sign.

Though the sign raising was postponed due to weather conditions, the pep rally was held in Myrick on Jan. 23 where each side announced their Cabinet. The cast of the side shows was also announced, which was kept secret until then.

The sign raising was then held Jan. 25, where Gold Side revealed a '70s style rendition of a high school hallway, completed with lockers and bulletin boards, and Purple Side had a story book, supplemented with a literal doorway to a castle.

The women's volleyball game was held the same day in Myrick, concluding in Gold Side's win 28-26 in the first set and 25-14 in the second.

The next athletic event was the men's ultimate frisbee game on Feb. 1 where Gold won in a close game 11-9. However, the weekend was not over as the women's basketball game was the next day. Purple Side won 25-17.

The last College Night athletic events will be held on Saturday, Feb. 8. The men's basketball team will play at 2 p.m. at Myrick Gym. The cheer competition will also be held on Saturday.



2020 CN Program

By ANNA GRACE ASKELSON



Since 2010 the cover of the College Night brochure, which is passed out during the shows, has been designed by students in professor Min Sun Lee's fall semester section of Intro to Graphic Design. The College Night committee works with each class to find the best designs.

This year's brochure was designed by senior Mehgan Crawford.

The idea of having the design process of the brochure cover integrated into a class came from graphic design professor Min Lee when she first joined the College College Night committee in 2010.

"They weren't getting a lot of designs when they opened the competitions to everybody and they were getting like really bad designs from different majors… so when I got on College Night committee I suggested, what if

Continue on pg. 4

The secret heroes of College Night

By ARIEL HALL, Lifestyles editor

During College Night, there is lot of talk around campus about Purple and Gold side, but something a lot of people don't know about or discuss is Green side.

Green Side is the neutral group of College Night, including the staff of Palmer who help both sides during College Night.

"They're truly a blessing. They help with everything, especially flies," said Bria Owens, senior speech pathology major and Purple Side leader.

"Marion and Fancher are always there if you need a hug or just need to talk. They're so passionate about the game and it shows," Owens continued.

"They do everything. They hang set, make lights happen, they help with sound. They make College Night happen," said senior English and political science double major and Gold Side leader, Rylee Holt.

Continue on pg. 4

Vintage Purples fund raise for CN endowment

By CALEB JONES, News editor

For many students here at the University of Montevallo, College Night is an integral and memorable part of their college experience. Every year, College Night brings out a new group of talented and passionate players who give their blood, sweat and tears to honor the oldest homecoming tradition in the United States.

Love for College Night drives many of these students to dedicate their time, money and effort to the event even after their time as a Montevallo student has ended. In fact, UM alumni are essential to making College Night happen.

The Montevallo Vintage Purples are a group of alumni that have been doing a lot of work to help their side and College Night in general.

The Vintage Purples, also known simply as the Vintages, have been large donors to the College Night Endowment Fund.

According to Jacob Gordon, the Director of Annual Giving & Donor Engagement in University Advancement, while donors from both sides have contributed in donations to the endowment, the Vintage Purples Alumni Club have been "fantastic supporters of the endowment from the beginning."

The Vintage Purples are in the endowment fund's Trumbauer Circle donor level, meaning they have donated $10,00 or more to the fund.

"There are Gold supporters as well," stated Gordon, "I don't have a number necessarily for them, but they have given more on an individual level rather than through the alumni group."

Continue on pg. 6

Gold side sign's tough journey to Farmer

By WAID JONES, Editor-in-chief

The night before sign raising was scheduled, Jan. 23, Gold Side began the monumental task of moving the largest sign in College Night history. Two hours and almost 2 miles later, the side had accomplished the task months in the making.

10:30 p.m.

Metal doors of the Gold Victory portion of the shop, commonly known as side space, creek as they are rolled up by Rylee Holt, the female Gold Side leader. The stark difference between the warmth inside of the shops and the cold outside was palpable as you could see breath. The sign, a 9 feet x 15 feet x 10-feet rectangular cube, sits perpendicular to the exit.

Eight metal handles are positioned on the edges of the sign to allow for it to be carried.

Aaron Jones, Gold Side technical director, laid out the plan.

The sign would have to be rotated over 90 degrees just to get out of the door. Then moved 300 hundred feet down a dark, gravel path where it would then be lifted into a waiting box truck.

Because the sign was delicate it would have to be carefully picked up and put down every few feet to avoid putting too much stress on any one person, or the sign itself. Sitting on a base, covered in a plywood skirt, the sign was in constant danger of being dragged. If that happened the plywood skirting could very easily break off.

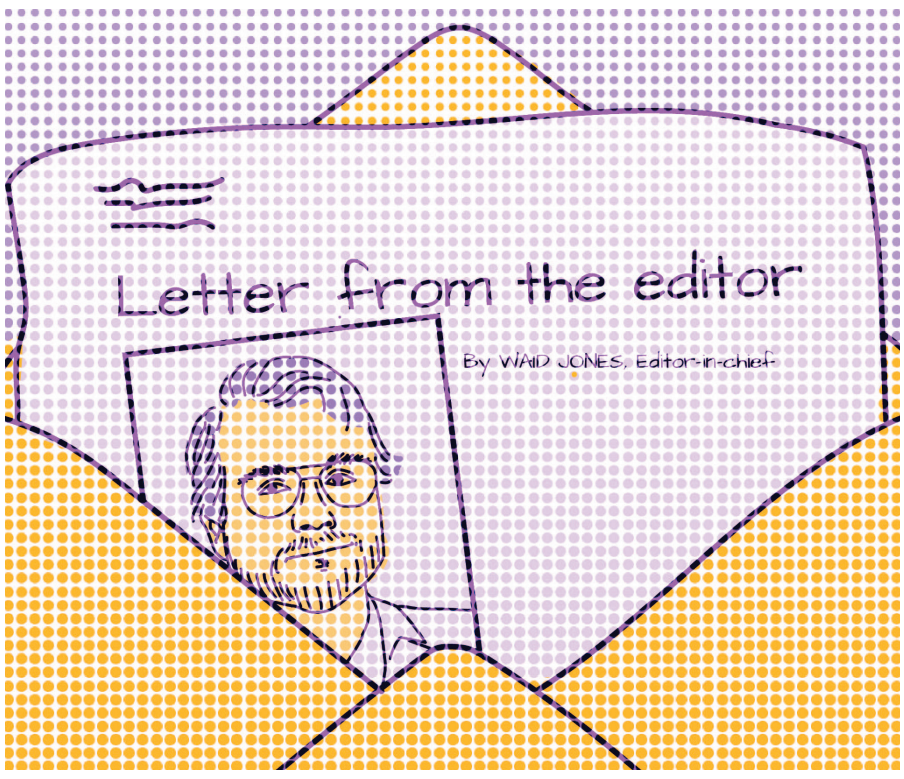
This meant that lifting and setting down the sign had to be carefully coordinated –

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Grief is a complex set of emotions that will remain difficult to deal with no matter what. After a friend or a loved one passes it's inevitable that something will remind you of them and then causes you to burst into tears at the most inopportune moments. For me, the worst was while standing in line for a showing of "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" shortly after the passing of a close friend in 2017.

I cried. No, I sobbed, standing in public thinking about him not being able to see the movie. People stared at me, but it didn't matter. They didn't understand what I was going through. I'm still not over his death and it was over 2 years ago.

To hold onto his memory, I've filled my home with more Boba Fett merchandise than is reasonable -- Boba Fett was his favorite Star Wars character. Not only that but the game Dungeons and Dragons holds a different meaning for me now because we had played hundreds of hours together.

It's odd, I'm one of the last people he talked to before he was lost at sea – fallen overboard of an aircraft carrier halfway across the world. My friends told me, and we cried together on a discord call. It helped, but it didn't stop the breakdown and the realization that he was gone.

No matter the circumstances it's painful to lose a friend.

But I was fortunately spared the horror of finding out that he died through a quick social media post linking to a poorly written article. I was saved the indignity of not being near someone to cry with.

I had the details, what little there were and didn't have to piece together whether he was the only one dead, or if he was one of a few.

This is why journalists have a duty to be right before they have a duty to be first. A duty to realize that the words that we say have meaning and power beyond face value. Those words we often work so hard to craft into articles have the possibility to cause pain. They can damage someone for the rest of their lives and in some cases prevent them from really grieving their loved one.

Ultimately, there are more important things in life than winning a race.

I feel that the notion of being not first is linked to the complex underpinnings of what a journalist should be. To really be a good journalist your interest needs to be based on empathy. All stories, and certainly all news articles are fundamentally based on the experiences of people, you link cause and effect to people and to do this a journalist often has an overactive sense of empathy.

They want to help. This is why saying that a journalist is just nosey and that's why they are in this career is oversimplifying. The best ones need to care about the people they are reporting on, they want to find the reason for something and tell that person's story. Or, they seek to rout out injustice and help to improve the circumstances of those affected.

Without this empathetic goal to utilize language, investigation or personal experiences to build an empathetic connection with one's reader the words on the page hold no meaning. They are just words and facts.

The real journalist wants to take on tyranny or injustice and highlight them, not for personal glory, but to further a fundamental societal good and see their work as having purpose beyond self-gratification. The job of most writers and editors is thankless. It does not win awards but remains important, it's significance may not bare out to those who read it, but it nonetheless remains.

It is our job to understand that death is hard to deal with. That our words and the media firestorm they can create may be seen by the grieving and cause them pain. Ultimately, we must remember though that people are complicated and their stories multifaceted.

I remember all of the ones who I have lost, but with the abstraction of time I'm allowed to remember them in my own ways. I have chosen my ways to grieve them, not by removing their faults but by understanding them in their whole. This remembrance is important, to know that the people we loved and lost should be remembered, and that the only true death is to be forgotten.

This is where journalism done right can help. It can bring us this closure, but when done wrong and shared by those who don't look, who don't check it, it can prevent such closer and cause undue pain. When done right it can bring us the catharsis that we seek after the loss of a loved one.

I hope that we can all find that, the moment when our tears for our shared losses can change to tears of the remembrance of the beauty that a person brought to our lives or a sport.

Enjoy small moments

By ANNA GRACE ASKELSON

I don't think I understood what living was until recently.

I've always been a forward thinker, to the point that what I remember most about age 12 was thinking about turning 16. I tend to spend so much time thinking about the future; about falling in love, getting a job or having an art show that I forget to live in the process of getting to these places, if I ever do. It feels pretty cliché to talk about the necessity of "living in the moment," but despite hearing that message often I still fail to follow it.

I believe that as a culture we often see life as a set of big events- school graduation, job, marriage, children and grandchildren. Life is falling in love, achieving great success and leaving a legacy. Life is hitting these events and then celebrating.

The downside of this worldview is that in the in-between times we don't feel like we are truly living life.

It's easy to sit and wait for a text from your crush and feel like the waiting isn't living but reading the text will be, or that reading the text won't be, and living is when you finally go out with them.

It's easy to have big plans for Saturday, and in the meantime wait to live in that moment rather than in the waiting. When this happens, you miss the in between bits of life.

Though we may only feel real and alive when we experience strong emotion, the vast majority of our lives pass in a hush of monotony. We walk to class, we say "hi" to an acquaintance, we work, we do our laundry and we go to bed at 11.

Thus, our days pass; and thus, we live.

Going to the housing event in your dorm is as much living as making out with someone as sitting in the cafeteria waiting for the rain to stop.

It's easy to be content when you're spending time with friends, partying or celebrating success. Those situations are just a small part of life, as the majority of us aren't busy constantly are learning to be content in the in between moments. Our present quiet monotony is a huge struggle but one that can change your life.

Ultimately, even the big landmarks in our lives gradually flow into monotony. Exciting job opportunities turn into cyclical paperwork. A glamorous wedding turns into watching TV and doing dishes with a spouse. We achieve successes and then do the same thing over and over.

Monotony is a tricky word – it sounds boring, harsh and colorless. I would argue that though repetitious daily tasks seem monotonous and banal, when we learn to be happy in their repetition, they a joy rather than a bore.

I've heard all though my life that the way to become a master of something is to do it for 10,000 hours. Paint pet rocks, fold paper cranes and bake macaroons for 10,000 hours each and you'll be the best rock-painting origami folding baker around.

Though I've heard these examples, I haven't heard this way of thinking applied to our lives. If we intentionally live each day, perhaps we can learn to master the art of finding the joy and beauty things both small and ordinary.

So many of my most important memories seemed small and silly in the moment but have gained importance to me over time. One game of capture the flag still vividly sits in my mind and reminds me of the peace I find in nocturnal nature and the joy I get from being with friends.

How many similar memories could I have if I had lived in them, instead of in the future? If I had embraced the mindset of living in the waiting, perhaps I would have more to look back on in joy now.

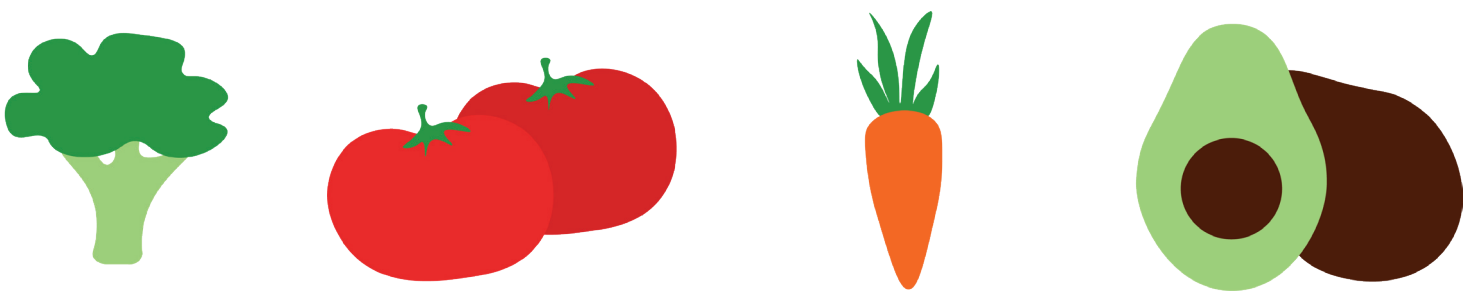
So that's what I'm trying to do now. I want to live in the present, and not the future. While I still look forward to big achievements and events, I think I now know to intentionally dwell in the waiting.

I am purposefully striving to enjoy every fruit loop in my morning cereal, to embrace stomping in puddles and getting lost in conversation with people I barely know. As I do my laundry, I appreciate what I have and what I enjoy about each thing. I talk to my friends, and I notice who has freckles and who doesn't. I will do the same tasks over and over, and each time I strive to appreciate it more. Thus, my days pass, and thus, I will live.

Submit your questions to *alabamian@montevallo.edu* for a chance to be featured in our next issue!

OP-ED: Veganism - a moral imperative?

By HANNAH IRVIN



People tend to explore a vegan diet or lifestyle for one of three reasons: health, sustainability, or ethics.

The documentaries "The Game Changers," "Forks over Knives" and "What the Health" demonstrate the negative effects of animal products on the human body and the positive effects of a plant-based diet instead.

The documentary "Cowspiracy" informs viewers about the devastating world-wide effects of animal agriculture. The consumption of animal products contributes to malnourishment in the developing world, water scarcity, pollution, deforestation, species extinction, land degradation and global warming. Animal agriculture has also been linked to 55% of global erosion.

The documentaries "Food, Inc." and "Earthlings" showcase the inhumane and cruel practices that are still used to produce animal products. Roosters cannot produce eggs, so when they are born into egg production factories, they are put into a blender alive and ground up. Cows are artificially inseminated and after they give birth, their baby is killed and their milk sold.

If the dog meat trade in Korea upsets you, I urge you to think about what you're supporting here in America. I don't think there is a "humane" way to kill an animal.

So what keeps people from adopting a vegan diet?

When I took a gap year between transferring colleges, I decided to give veganism a go. I watched the previously mentioned documentaries and realized that what I considered a "healthy diet" was based on ill-informed textbooks and outdated research.

Stores like Wal-Mart and Publix were beginning to adopt plant-based alternatives such as almond or soy milk, and vegan cheeses. This made avoiding animal products easy for me. Meat was replaced by a veggie alternative or tofu, and cereal was now accompanied by almond milk. I had plenty of time to research and prepare meals. When I started attending college again, however, things became more difficult.

I've now switched to being only vegetarian when eating out because my schedule does not allow me to fully plan meals and on-campus options do not provide many plant-based options. Although locations like Burger King have introduced meat-free alternatives, it is important to consider the ingredients if approaching veganism from a health-conscious view.

Even if you cannot commit to being entirely vegan, small everyday changes can have a huge impact on your life and on the environment. Small changes like skipping meat on your Moe's order, trying a garden burger instead of beef and opting to use plant milk instead of dairy will make a difference.

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Gold side sign's tough journey to Farmer cont.



Alex Benion, Gold Side male leader, managing sign moving



Group of eight golds carrying sign from side space.



Rylee Holt, Gold Side female leader, managaing sign moving

the dirt road and the dark conditions made this more difficult.

In 10-foot increments the sign began to make its way to the parking lot. Groans came from both the sign and the Gold Side crewmembers carrying the sign under its weight. As the sign moved towards the parking lot the side began to look towards the truck that was waiting to carry sign to in front of Farmer Hall.

11 p.m.

The sign had moved about 300 feet. The sun had gone down hours ago and Gold Side was ready for the second phase of the move. A 15-foot box truck, rented by the Side's leaders, sat ready for them in the parking lot.

However, as the final move into the truck started the members began to question whether the 10-foot-tall sign would fit.

It didn't.

Frantically, everyone began to call anyone awake, looking for a truck or trailer large enough to fit the sign.

Midnight

"I'm not going to make any of you do this," said Holt as the realization dawned on her that the sign would have to be moved by hand, "you can leave now if you want and I won't hold it against you, but we're going to have to move this by hand. It has to get to Farmer."

Slowly, the group begins to coordinate the move.

"1, 2, 3, up!" shouted Holt as she begins to direct the 2 mile move to Farmer.

As the sign moved closer to Farmer, the side acted with military precision, as they began carrying the sign up the hill on College Drive those not carrying the sign were cheering those carrying it on.

The uneven nature of Montevallo's brick streets caused new challenges for the sign.

Creaks and groans came from the sign as the crew sat it down on the brick streets by Farmer, revealing that if the sign wouldn't be able to be set down for long periods of time until they reached the safety of the grass in front of Farmer Hall.

The brick road caused new problems for the sign raising crew, and limited their ability to set it down because of the uneven brick streets

12:35 a.m.

Touchdown. The sign landed in front of Farmer Hall where it would sit until after College Night. It stands as the largest sign by a long shot, and marks a drastic change from previous sign which have traditionally been primarily two-dimensional creations, with small 3D elements.

Instead, the Gold Victory Sign for 2020 incorporated a larger interactive element inviting onlookers to interact and take photos with the sign.

Some question whether the sign has gone too far, noting that it no longer resembles a traditional college night sign.

NEWS *in* BRIEF

By WESLEY HYDE

On Jan. 30, The World Health Organization (WHO) held a conference in Geneva, Switzerland to decide whether the outbreak of novel coronavirus virus in China and its subsequent spread should be deemed a public health emergency of international concern. The meeting concluded with the Director General of the WHO declaring it as such. The disease was first reported by Chinese officials to have originated from a fish market in Wuhan, a city in China. CNN in Beijing has shared that officials have reported over 14,000 cases of the disease with 300 plus deaths. Cases have also been reported in the U.S. with eight confirmed cases.

SGA recap

By HARRISON NEVILLE, SGA columnist



Harrison Neville, SGA Columnist

SGA convened in the Farmer meeting room on Jan. 29 to discuss potential changes to the student life at Montevallo.

Representatives from Pita Pit visited the campus and spoke with SGA representatives. The representatives expressed their approval of students being able to use swipes for Pita Pit.

SGA President Olivia Eldridge reported that she spoke with Dr. Dahle, the Dean of Student Affairs, who reported to her that the Administration would not be taking a raise in the resident maintenance fee to the Board of Trustees.

Eldridge also reported that Faculty Senate was considering changing the deadline for the grades of graduating seniors so that the grades would be due at the same time as other students. This would mean that seniors would be sent their diplomas in the mail instead of receiving them the day of graduation.

SGA seniors expressed concern over whether such a change would cause confusion for seniors over whether they had passed their classes prior to graduation day. Overall, the senators appeared to be in favor of keeping the grades due at the same time.

It was decided that no changes would be made to Senior grades.

The Student Life committee is working with Physical Plant to get fans in Bibb Graves.

The Technology Affairs committee finished their technology bill. It is currently being revised before it will be submitted to the Senate at large.

The Governmental Affairs committee is reaching out to Physical Plant to have the hand sanitizers in the SAC refilled.

The Students Rights and Interest committee have relinquished their efforts to pass legislation for the hand sanitizers in Davis. They will instead submit a resolution to the Dean expressing their belief that hand sanitizers should be installed in Davis.

Justin Williams was sworn in as the new Senior Class President. Benson Smith was sworn in as the new Arts and Sciences senator.

The Senate will not meet during the week of College Night.

SGA will show a screening of "Eight Days", a movie depicting a girl caught up in human trafficking, on Feb. 18. On Feb. 26, SGA will host a Town Hall at which the Junior League in Birmingham will come to speak on human trafficking.

Applications for SGA open Feb. 10 and close Mar. 6.

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College Night Meme War 2020

By KAT BELL, Managing editor of production

In November of 2019 two University of Montevallo alumni, Kalyn Wolfe and Justin Adderholt, created a Facebook page titled "College Night Meme war of 2020." Over the past several weeks the meme page has become more and more controversial.

Since the page's creation, its admins have posted several memes a day making jokes about Purple Side, Gold Side, judge 3 and the College Night tradition as a whole.

The memes posted have been a combination of the admins' work and fan submissions.

The page's popularity spiked pretty quickly after its creation. Some of the page's first memes joked that competitive musical theatre makes Montevallo student's cry and gold and purple students put pressure on green students every season to pick a side.

At the page's inception many memes were lighthearted and often posted twice. Once, to joke on Gold Side and again to joke on Purple Side. Yet, as the page continued and the official College Night season began the jokes started to diversify and hit a little harder.

"Everyone gets roasted. Everyone! Just wait a few minutes, you'll see a meme roasting the other side," Wolfe said.

"We have two rules: no defamatory language, and no memes calling out a specific person," Wolfe said when asked how the admins navigate the heightened emotions that accompany Montevallo's 101 year long tradition.

However, even with those rules in place, things still get heated.

"My fellow admins have banned people for a short period of time just to get things cooled down," said Wolfe. "Sometimes we need that reminder that it's all in good fun, and to roll with the punches."

The page was getting a lot of positive feedback in the beginning.

"This page was so funny when it first started. I truly enjoyed it," said Kyra Shobe, senior psychology major and Purple Side cabinet member.

"I think it's a ton of fun at surface level, and from my personal viewing, I have only enjoyed the banter between the sides," said Ryan Howard, senior business major and former Gold Side leader stated about the page's beginning.

Many other students responded with a similar sentiment and expressed positive feelings about the beginning of the page.

While the basis of the page is to joke about College Night and laugh at the other side as the page's bio suggests, some students feel the page has turned in a negative direction.

Shobe said that she feels the admins' ego have gotten too big and the posts have become rude and problematic.

"It might be doing more harm than good overall," said Howard

"Unfortunately, it has now become an outlet for people to say genuinely hurtful things to one another while justifying it by saying 'it's just a meme or joke,'" said Mars Peterson, junior theatre major and Purple side cabinet. "It has given people a chance to take genuinely problematic things about both sides of College Night and write them off as unimportant or funny."

"It's just making my purple and gold friends fight about things [they] weren't fighting about before," said Reanna Pipes, junior business major and purple, in a tweet. She also expressed concern that the arguing will only get worse after the shows begin.

"I've noticed that some of the memes (in particular the purple side starter pack and the gold side social media memes) have been unnecessarily using the LGBTQ+ community as the butt of the joke," said one former UM student.

Wolfe's response to a concern such as this was "I'm Purple. I'm also bisexual. You gotta make fun of yourself sometimes. If you can't laugh at yourself, then who can you laugh at?"

When asked what might "fix" the problems with the page, Shobe said: "Well unfortunately, I don't think there's much we can do. It's not like we can get rid of the page, but I think the best thing we can do is calling it out when it goes too far. I think the further we let the posts go on, the more we feed it's ego and it just becomes even more ruthless."

Another senior suggested further filtering of memes, be it fan submission or admin creation and "stopping with the 'it's just a meme page, get over it' comments whenever someone expresses a concern."

While College Night is often marketed as the longest-running homecoming tradition in the nation, at its heart, College Night is a competition.

Morgan Glaze, senior art major, asked how the page and its fan submissions might affect the scoring of spirit points during the season since the posts are anonymous and only filtered by the admins.

Spirit points are one of the many ways sides can gain points during the College Night season, but they are the only way sides can lose points.

Spirit points can be gained at events when a side stays enthusiastic and/or handles themselves favorably in heightened emotional situations like the loss or win of a sporting event. If a side or individual representing a side acts poorly, points may also be deducted.

The meme page has raised questions about how spirit points should come into play due to the controversial nature of many of the posts.

Memes are a trending type of joke that give students an outlet to raise morale or tear another side down. The College Night Committee has no set rules on what makes a meme appropriate or not. Thus, point deductions happen on a case by case bases. As Glaze points out, the posts made to the page are not attributed to their creators, thus no one can gain or lose points based on their content.

In the end, the College Night tradition is one that students and alumni alike look forward to every year, but it is also one that creates tension as the season draws nearer to its end. Yet, some students question if the College Night Meme War 2020 page has amplified the expected level of tension to an unfavorable amount.

SGA

SENATORS NEEDED!



APPLICATIONS DUE MARCH 6

Senate meets every Wednesday at 4:30 in Farmer meeting room

Apply on FalconLink or Contact SGA VP Madison Hollon at mhollon1@forum.montevallo.edu

The secret heroes of College Night cont.

Layne Garrett, Purple Side's assistant production manager, also spoke fondly of the staff.

"They facilitate our tradition and strive to help both sides put on the best shows possible. They're such genuinely nice peoplele," said Garrett.

"They really are there to help with almost everything and want both sides to succeed. The amount of work and time they put in to make this tradition for every participant and audience member is crazy," added Olivia LeComte, sophomore theatre major, Purple Side cast member and assistant director.

A frequently discussed member of Palmer staff is Andrew Fancher, the facility manager. Fancher and other staff members aid in all kinds of behind the scenes work.

"We keep Palmer theatre up and running with sound, lights, and everything in between," said senior staff member, Brooke Morgan. "We help both sides and monitor rehearsals, hang set pieces, cue their shows, and so much more."

Students like Morgan are able to gain experience in technical theatre especially during this time of year.

"Being a part of Palmer Staff has opened me up so much to a level of skill I have always dreamed of obtaining. It's challenging and demanding, but absolutely rewarding in every sense," continued Morgan.

Green Side also includes the members of the College Night committee, the SGA President and the Editor-in-Chief of The Alabamian.

2020 CN Program cont.

we introduce this project as first client work for our intro class," said Lee.

"It's greatly improved the quality of the covers," said one member of the College Night committee and art history professor at UM, Dr. Kelly Wacker.

The brochure serves as an experiential learning project for graphic design students. The process of designing the brochure is helpful to students because it is set up to simulate what it's like working in a professional capacity outside of school. For the student each year whose design makes it the official brochure, this project serves as a great resume builder.

The designs are done in several drafts and then critique by the client, which are the members of the College Night committee.

Lee described the steps of the process.

"Students work on 40 different sketches per person. Then they come into their rough sketch, critique and clients pick out five potential designs for each person to move onto computer sketch. Then they come in again and talk to them about what they needand the client picks one design from the five sketches they did, and then they do final presentations."

In each of these steps, students are able to consult with the client in order to create a better finished product.

"The client gives them feedback, what they need to change," said Lee.

This year, Crawford's starry design will grace the cover of the brochure. Her interest in illustration is apparent in the brochure cover, which is a purple College Night sky with gold constellations and lettering.

Crawford's busy schedule never allowed her to work on College Night before, so she feels very happy to be involved through the design of the brochure.

"Doing this let me be involved with it without having to spend a whole lot of time outside of class," Crawford said.

Her main intent behind the design is to promote a message of unity and peace between Purples and Golds.

"Everybody goes to the same school, we're all friends, so I don't see the point in like a lot of people fighting," said Crawford.

Through both Lee's graphic design class and this specific project, Crawford found a greater interest in graphic design and a greater understanding of her own skill within the medium.

This year, Lee, Crawford, Wacker and the entire College Night committee worked together to create, as Wacker said, "a cover that's reflecting the spirit of College Night."



ASK ? ARIEL

By ARIEL HALL, Lifestyles editor

Dear Ariel,

It is almost Sweet Saturday and I am so excited, but I am in a bit of a predicament. My significant other is on the opposing side. She is a great person and I really care about her. How do I deal with my girlfriend being a Gold? I want to support her and her work, but I don't want my Purple friends to feel like I'm abandoning them.

From,
Purple Pal

Dear Purple Pal,

Don't worry Purple Pal! You're not alone, believe it or not. I know several people whose significant other is on the opposing side.

The best advice I can give you in this situation is to do whatever makes you and your partner happy. Support her and her work! One of the gifts that College Night has to offer is the unity it brings to the student body, despite any competition or rivalry between the sides.

At the end of the day and at the end of the season, you'll still have each other and it's important for you to support each other and their successes. So, whatever the outcome, you guys can celebrate together.

Happy College Night!
Sincerely,
Ariel

Dear Ariel,

I'm really struggling when it comes to money. I work a small part time job, but I suck when it comes to budgeting. How do I keep from blowing all my paycheck in one fell swoop?

Sincerely,
Another Broke College Kid

Dear Broke Kid,

One of the hardest things about budgeting in my opinion is knowing where to get started. The great thing is that there are tons of resources out there to help.

Before I started budgeting, I was the kind of person that spent too much money for a certain thing because I wasn't keeping track of what I was spending my paycheck on. If this is an issue you've also been having, I suggest an app like EveryDollar.

EveryDollar is a super easy app that I like to use that does all of your budgeting for you. You can enter in however much your paycheck for the month is and you can split your budget into all kinds of categories. There's even a section for school, which can be especially helpful if you're paying for your own textbook, supplies or student bill.

The biggest tip I have for budgeting is to keep track and cut back where you can. Micromanaging where you're putting your money makes all the difference in the end. That way, when your car gets a flat tire or you really want to buy a new pair of shoes, you can afford to treat yourself. It's all about moderation.

Sincerely,
Ariel

Dear Ariel,

It's almost Valentine's Day and there's this guy I know that really likes me. We've hung out a couple of times before and he considers us to be good friends but I don't have feelings for him. I don't want to hurt his feelings. How do you let someone down gently?

Thanks,
Don't Say You Love Me

Dear Don't Say,

In my opinion, having unrequited feelings for someone is almost worse than having feelings for someone who doesn't like you back. This can be even worse when you're friends with the person.

When it comes to letting someone down, I'd first consider time and place. If you anticipate a longer conversation, take that into consideration.

During the actual conversation, be honest and keep it brief. It's not helpful to either of you by beating around the bush. It's perfectly okay to say that you think that you're not interested or that you'd rather stay friends.

I'd only caution you to make sure that things are clear. You don't want to accidentally lead them on or leave them with the question of "is this really over?"

There's no perfect way to do it, but I hope this advice helps.

Sincerely,
Ariel

Dear Ariel,

I'm sure you're getting quite a few questions about relationships with Valentine's Day coming up, but I would really like some advice on how to deal with a long-distance relationship. I've been dating the same person since my senior year of high school and I moved to Montevallo for college. It's just harder than I thought it'd be.

Thanks,
Restless in Love

Dear Restless,

Some people think that long distance never works out and your family or friends may even discourage you, but distance really can make the heart grow fonder.

Since you're newer to the concept of long-distance dating, try to look at it as an opportunity to grow together rather than apart.

The best piece of advice I have to offer when it comes to long distance is to set some ground rules and make sure that both of you are on the same page, especially in terms of how often you two are communicating. Talk as often as you'd like and try to keep each other updated on the little mundane things too. Sometimes the littlest effort can go a long way.

If it starts to feel like it's not working, you and your partner can always try a new form of communication. Send pictures or audio clips or even videos. Use technology to your best ability.

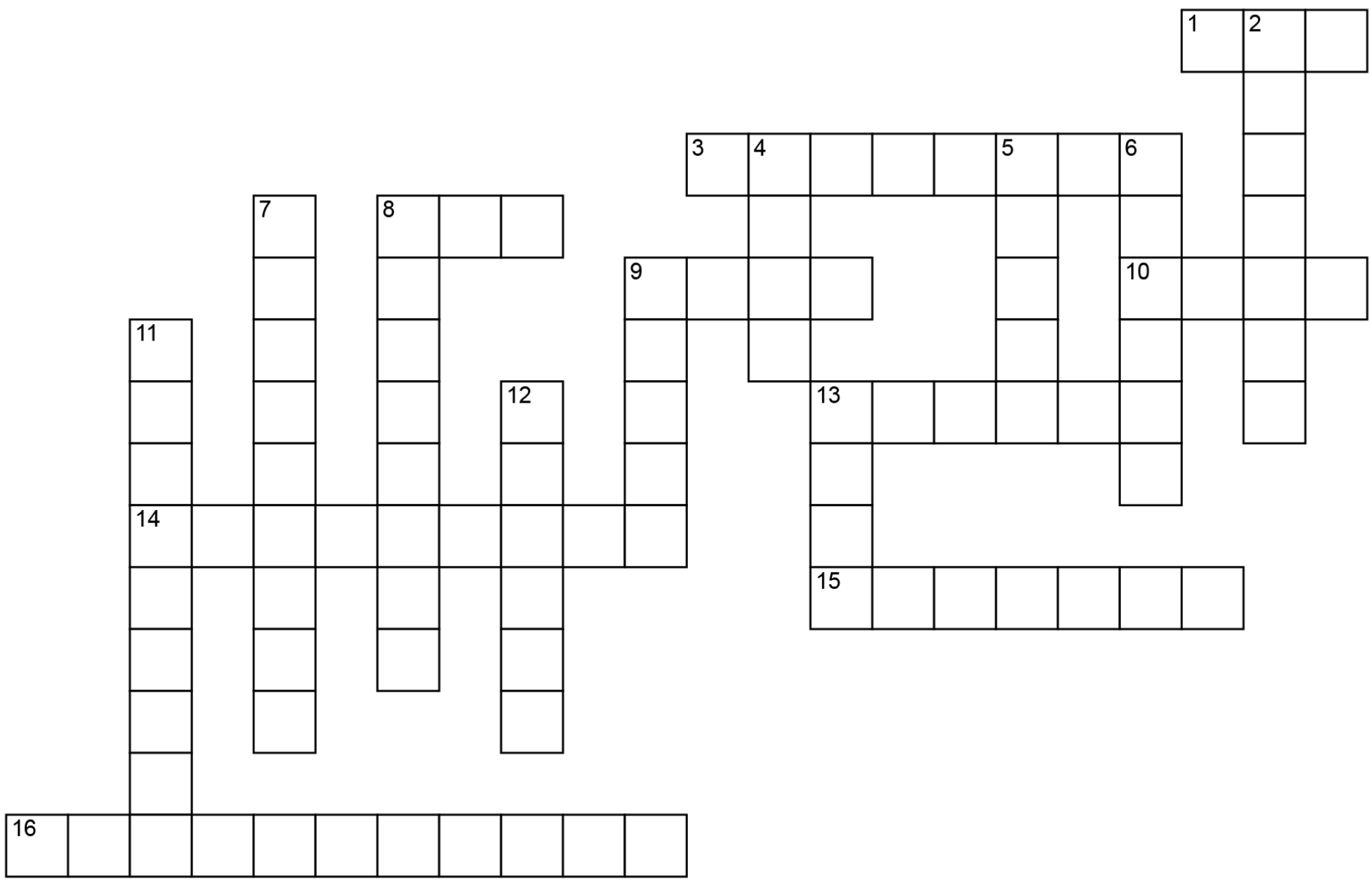
Hope this helps!
Sincerely,
Ariel

****Disclaimer*

"The advice offered in this column is intended for informational purposes only. Use of this column not intended to replace or substitute for any professional, financial, medical, legal, or other professional advice. If you have specific concerns or a situation in which you require professional, psychological or medical help, you should consult with an appropriately trained and qualified specialist. This column, its author, the newspaper and publisher are not responsible for the outcome or results of following any advice in any given situation. You, and only you, are completely responsible for your actions."

Crossword

By HARRISON NEVILLE & KATY BARNES



ACROSS

1. What the gold's want
3. Gold Side gesture
8. The Purple Side mascot
9. Old
10. Gold side Mascot
13. Vintage
14. Purple Side gesture
15. Green who practically runs Palmer
16. Part of the Gold Side song

DOWN

2. What both sides want
4. There's always a _____ in our circle
5. What both sides need
6. The location of the shows
7. The ghost that decides who wins college night
8. What both sides do before their songs
9. We're ambivalent
11. Purple Sides catchphrase
12. A _____ circle is a _____ side
13. Something purples say to hype each other up

Vintage Purples fundraise for CN endowment cont.



Montevallo Vintage Purples present a donation check to the University of Montevallo Alumni Association. Contributed by Kay Butts-Pruett

Vintage Purple Kay Butts-Pruett, who has pledged $5,000 over 5 years to the endowment fund, is proud of the Vintage's donation efforts.

"Ultimately, it's our job as alumni to give back to the school that gave so much to us, both in our time and our dime," she stated.

The fund will be endowed when it reaches its $100,000 goal in full, which according to Gordon it already has when pledges are factored in. It will then be funded into perpetuity; this means that the $100,000 will be placed into a fund that will generate 4% interest yearly ($4,000). Only the interest will be drawn from, meaning the base $100,000 never disappears.

The interest will be used to fund College Night necessities—anything from new cheerleading uniforms, sound systems, even additions to side space. The entire purpose of the endowment fund is to provide College Night funding that the University or the SGA couldn't otherwise afford.

Aside from donations to the fund, the Vintages have various service projects throughout the year specifically to help Purple Side. On Jan. 25 they held the 16th annual alumni dinner, where they fed the cast and crew of the current show and gave short speeches about their time at UM and what Purple Side meant to them. The event offers a reprieve from a long rehearsal, as well as the opportunity to do professional networking with the Vintages.

Mars Peterson, junior theatre major and Purple cabinet member said he enjoys the alumni dinners.

"I think it's a great way for the current students to interact with the old Vintages," stated Peterson. "All of us are one family, but there aren't a lot of times for current [College Night] players to get to know their older family members!"

The Vintage Purples also started an initiative they call the Vintage Voyage close to a decade ago. During the Purple PJ Party and Victory Party they offer free rides to and from the parties so that students don't drive or walk home drunk.

"It's not safe," stated Butts-Pruett, "this is something we can do to serve them."

Butts-Pruett is proud of the work the Vintages have done with service projects and in giving endowment donations and has a "challenge" for the Old Golds — "Where are y'all? What are y'all doing?"

Pita Pit offers possible replacement to Moe's

By HARRISON NEVILLE, Copy editor



For over a year now, students have been hearing rumors that Moe's in Farmer Hall would be replaced with a different food option

On Jan. 15, SGA President Olivia Eldridge reported to the senate that the restaurant Pita Pit was being seriously considered as a replacement for Moe's.

Pita Pit is a global franchise that was founded in Canada in 1995. According to their website, the company's founder, Nelson Lang, created the restaurant chain "with a vision to provide a health alternative to fast food restaurants."

The restaurant specializes in Mediterranean style pita wraps. According to Quarles they also do burgers, rice bowls

Jason Quarles, Director of Dining Services at UM, referred to Pita Pit as similar to Tzatziki's, but at a lower price.

"What happened last year is that we were all set to go and change Moe's over and the University put the brakes on it," said Quarles. "They wanted to look at some different options, so that's why it didn't happen last year."

The original plan had been to replace Moe's with a Chartwell's provided in house option; however, members of SGA expressed strong reservations for such an option. They were worried it would be too similar to food available in the caf, despite Quarles assurances that the quality and type of food would be higher than that offered in the caf.

With an in-house option scrapped, those involved returned to the drawing board to decide the best way to replace Moe's.

The Moe's location in Farmer has struggled to bring in the amount of revenue that the brand required for its satellite locations. This was recently discussed when SGA learned students might have been required to split their Flex Points between the options in town and the options on campus in order to entice a national brand.

Numerous SGA members found this situation distressing; this, however, will not be a problem if the University chooses Pita Pit as the new dining option in Farmer.

"At this point, if we get Pita Pit, we don't have to change anything," said Quarles, referring to Flex options on campus.

There was one change that Quarles did confirm, which was that Pita Pit was amiable to the idea of allowing students to use their swipes to get items off the menu.

"You'd have two or three items [available for purchase with meal plan swipes], and we'd change them up every month," said Quarles discussing how the process would work.

Currently, it is still uncertain whether Pita Pit will take over Moe's location, because the decision is ultimately up to the University.

"The University knows that it needs to do something with Moe's. I mean, it's obvious people are getting tired of Moe's," said Quarles.

While there has of yet been no survey to check student opinions on replacing Moe's, the reception from members of SGA has thus far been positive, particularly due to the concept of students being allowed to use swipes.

Quarles believes that Pita Pit should be received well by most students.

"It's got the pita wrap section, but they also do rice bowls and they do hamburgers and they also do smoothies. It's a broad concept," said Quarles adding that, "it kinda fits with all the different things that student groups were asking for."

If chosen by the University, Pita Pits has said that they could be set up as soon as Aug. 1 of this year.

College Night PHOTO PAGE



Group of purples and Purple Side leaders enthusiastically cheering during circle up after women's basketball game.



Dee Inge, Purple Side athletics coordinator, breaks aware from the pack to make a shot.



Purple Side leaders Bria Owners (left) and Dakota Patrick (right) revealing their sign at sign raising.



Gold Side volleyball team cheering after winning the first sporting event of the College Night season.



Aaron Jones, Gold Side technical director, dancing inside the gold sign at the sign reveals.



Kyle McCune, Gold Side head male athletics, passing the frisbee to Lucas Younts, Gold Side assistant technical director. Purple side defender Pierce Jacobs looms over Younts.

Horoscopes

By ARIEL HALL

Aries ♈ Focus on yourself this coming week. Spend time exploring through relaxing via journaling or meditation. You'll be radiating from the inside out!

Taurus ♉ You might be feeling torn about something this week, especially when it comes to your career. Do what feels right for you, even if it might be hard to explain.

Gemini ♊ This week is a time for growth and collaboration. Socializing might seem like a distraction right now, but trust that the bonds you make now will aid you in your future.

Cancer ♋ You might be feeling ambitious about now, and take advantage by jumping on some opportunities that come your way and discuss your ideas with others.

Leo ♌ You might be craving an adventure right now, so hit the road with your best friend. It might be thrilling to explore a new or old place.

Virgo ♍ Take a minute to reconnect with others. Decompress, rest and recharge as you might feel that satisfying your needs can be empowering.

Libra ♎ Enjoy the fruits of your labor. As you collaborate with friends or colleagues, you might feel as though you're bigger than yourself.

Scorpio ♏ If you're feeling particularly spontaneous, have faith in yourself as you step into new situations. Going with the flow can lead you to a well-deserved success.

Sagittarius ♐ Make a bold move and get out of your comfort zone. Know that you can trust your gut to lead the way.

Aquarius ♒ You might need to take a closer look at balancing your needs with a loved one's. Begin to take some steps to reciprocate kindness.

Pisces ♓ This week you'd do well with taking advantage of your way with words. Connect and trade ideas with likeminded people to achieve your goals.

Capricorn ♑ Make sure to get your get your ducks in row before making decisions, especially when it comes to collaborations, before you get too caught up in lively and interesting projects.

COMICS



Submit your comics to *alabamian@montevallo.edu* for a chance to be featured in our next issue!



College Night issue coming Feb. 8

Spotify PLAYLIST

By The ALABAMIAN STAFF

THE SOUNDS OF COLLEGE NIGHT

"You Got a Friend in Me"
- Randy Newman

This is a song about friendship that crosses all boundaries, a song about unconditional friendship. After the season is all over, I can always count on my friends, no matter what side we're both on, and that is one of the special gifts of this season.

"Why Can't We Be friends?"
- War

During College Night tensions can get high to say the least. Sometimes people lose sight that the game is never supposed to be too contentious. It's meant to be a competitive, yet friendly rivalry. The song gives this message; respect each other and play your hearts out on Palmer stage. Let's remember to stay friends tomorrow.

"Chesire Kitten (We're all Mad Here)"
- S.J. Tucker

This is one of my all-time favorite songs and I think that it applies well to College Night. The lines "you can't forsake the journey for the/ safety of your room" are all about how times might be tough right now, but this is part of a journey, and you can make it through it. Don't worry if you feel like you're cracking under the pressure, just hold on to these lyrics; "we're all mad here, and that's okay."

"Lean on Me"
- Bill Withers

During this College Night season, it's important for all of us to remember that no matter how tired and stressed we get we can always lean on our friends. That's what College Night is really about; making new friends and growing closer to the ones that you have.

"Hey Girl"
- Lady Gaga and Florence Welch

Through trying and stressful times, this song always reminds me that someone is always here for me. At its heart, I think this is what College Night is about. It's about coming through a hard time, and it's no secret that we are all sleep deprived. Hopefully, if you're stressed about this season, you're getting through it with a Florence to your Gaga.

"Can't Stop me Now"
- Queen

In the final days of College Night, this song preaches to the final adrenaline rush it takes to get through the last events and shows. These are times we are going to reflect on for a lifetime, and this song encapsulates that feeling of joy and determination that the season is all about.

COLLEGE NIGHT EDITION

The Alabamian

Vol. 94, special edition

SATURDAY, February 8, 2020

IT'S A PV



Get witch the program, it's a PV!

By KATY BARNES



New queen Clara and the rebels celebrate victory.



Clara and Queen Daffodillia fighting outside the Cave of Chrysus.



Troll and other magical creature fighting in the bar.



Troll, Finch, and Clara traveling acorss the Water of Promise in search of treasure.

Fantasy becomes reality as the curtains rise and the overture begins for the 2020 Purple Side production, "Witchful thinking: One Hex of a Play or Get Witch or Die Trying or Brew it for the Money or A Witch, a Troll, and a Knight Walk into a Bar."

A fractured fairy tale if there ever was one, this year's Purple Side show takes place in a fantasy land run by Queen Daffodilia. The tone is quickly set with the dream ballet immediately immersing the audience into the show.

As the lights rise, we see a town of oppressed magical people, regaling the audience with their most recent struggles as they sing "Tragically Magic." Taxes are rising and life is getting worse, but fortunately their local witch has the cure for what ails them.

Clara runs the local potions shop with her business partner, Troll. Their goal is to help the magical citizens, but due to the taxes, the townsfolk can no longer pay for their potions. Clara, ever generous, does everything in her power to provide for the townsfolk, but Troll tells her that they need the money.

Enter Queen Daffodilia and her royal guard. The queen, despite being anti-magic, needs help retrieving a treasure from beyond the town. The Queen explains that while she's sent many people to the cave none have returned. She believes that the only one strong enough to do this is her step daughter, Clara, and she promises that with the money they find she will ease up on the taxes towards magical folk.

Troll and Clara go away to discuss the terms of the deal, and the two decide that if they "Do It for The Money" instead of for the Queen, it would be justified. They agree to the Queens demands and they receive a map leading them to the treasure. As Troll walks the Queen out, Clara sings "Do It for The Money" reprise, revealing that the real reason she's going on this quest is to have enough money to help the towns folk.

As Troll returns, he brings with him Finch, a member of the Royal Guard and selfcare advocate. The Queen sent him to protect the duo but Clara feels like he isn't necessary. Troll explains though that they can't go on the quest without him so they begrudgingly decide to let him tag along as their chef.

Unbeknownst to the trio, following close behind is Queen Daffodilia and her loyal Courtier. He asks why they're following Clara and she explains that, once upon a time, she did care for Clara. In another part of the woods, Troll chastises Clara for not admitting sooner she was related to the royal family. Clara tells him that she never wanted a replacement for her mother. The two duet with "I Tried" and it ends with the two groups continuing on their paths.

Clara's group goes through a place called the "Waters of Promise" - a body of water filled with Sirens who sing to the trio their deepest desires. They reveal how Clara misses her mother, how Troll wants to exist outside of Clara's shadow and how Finch wants to be braver so he can protect others. They break free by sharing their innermost fears and they realize that they can help each other cope with their struggles.

Clara admits that she ran away from the kingdom when Queen Daffodilia married her father, and she was scared of taking the crown. Troll wants their customers to appreciate him as much as they appreciate Clara, and Finch admits that he doesn't trust the Queen as much as he used to.

They find themselves in the Tree Trunk Tavern, a local bar where many townspeople go to relax. Finch, visibly uncomfortable, asks why the people don't like him. The people explain through "What Good Does Magic Do You" about their oppression and Finch vows to listen to the Magicals from now on.

Over in the B Plot, the Queen finally revels to her Courtier her plan to kill Clara. She fears that her crown is in danger and that Clara is using her magic to help the rebels in overthrowing her. Queen Daffodilia explains that "Moving Forward" she intends to eliminate the Magicals – including her stepdaughter. They vow to continue on in hopes that something else along the trio's way will end them, but if not, the Queen vows she'll do what needs to be done.

Clara and Company now find themselves in the middle of the Forest of Death. As the Death Guardians begin to surround them, the trio sings "If I Don't Die in The Next Five Minutes" about how they've changed over their journey. They confide in each other their plans for the future and they continue on their journey, with the Queen and the Courtier not far behind. The Queen, disappointed that nothing has managed to kill Clara yet, tells the Courtier to call reinforcements to meet them at the Cave of Chrysus where the Queen plans to kill Clara once and for all.

The Trio finally arrive at the Cave of Chrysus, only to be greeted by the Queen and her guard. The Queen begins her attack, but is interrupted by the rebel alliance who accidentally stumbled upon the cave while on their way to attack the castle. A battle breaks out causing the Queen and Clara to have their final confrontation in "I Tried Reprise." During their final battle the Queen is struck by Scurge – the leader of the rebels – and refuses Clara's help to heal her with magic. She dies in the Courtier's arms and is taken away while Clara sobs.

Finch and Troll remind Clara that it isn't her fault that the Queen refused her help. The Courtier then apologizes for all of the things he did under the Queen's rule and that he accepts any punishment Clara sees fit, as she's the new reigning monarch.

Clara excepts her new role and tells the townsfolk that there's no time to waste as they all join in to sing the finale "Work to Do," ending the show with PV's held proud.



Magical Creatures and towns folk dancing outside Clara's Poisons & Potions

The Alabamian

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Golds go back to high school, fail to make the grade

By RYAN HOWARD



Goldenview High School students and Mr. Wagner freeze as the school bell rings.

The Gold Side's 2020 production transports us to 1970 Goldenview High School, where, instead of focusing on their studies, students are thinking about the upcoming back-to-school dance, and how it will set the tone for the rest of their lives.

We meet Mikey and Mindy, the school's announcers, who welcome all the students back to school, while a classroom springs to life onstage. After announcements, the first period teacher calls roll.

Roll is interrupted by Charlie Chamberlain rushing into class late. While Charlie explains himself, he is tripped by star athlete, Robbie Richards. Charlie's friends, Jax and Boom, rush to his aid, but a teacher breaks it up and gives Robbie detention.

After the class settles down, the students burst into the opening number, "Roll Call," and sing about how they don't want to sit beside classmates they don't like.

After the song, school "golden girl," Dottie Wagner, calls Robbie out on his unruly behavior earlier, but Robbie insists that "people like Charlie" need to be put in their place early on so they know their place.

During this discussion, Robbie's friend, Tim, lets slip that Robbie has been "macking on" another girl from a home-ec class over the summer, and Dottie leaves the classroom in disbelief.

In the courtyard, Dottie's friends, Jax and Bonnie, try to convince her to break up with Robbie. Dottie then remembers she wants to apologize to Charlie for what happened to him, because she knows Robbie won't.

Dottie and Charlie are talking, when Robbie, interrupts to attempt to apologize to Dottie for his behavior, while trying to avoid mentioning the home-ec homewrecker. Dottie gets mad with the way he brushes off his unfaithfulness, and dumps him.

Robbie gets angry, but is reminded he has detention and begrudgingly leaves.

While Dottie and Charlie get friendlier with each other, Jax and Boom discuss the potential problems that could arise if Dottie and Charlie got together. The ensemble launches into "How It's Gotta Be," and sings about issues of racial integration, and how being an interracial couple could lead to issues that the two students might not be prepared for.

Back in the classroom, Robbie and his friends are serving their detention. Robbie begins planning how to get back together with Dottie, although his friends think it's unlikely. The discussion is interrupted by Tim rushing into detention to let them know what happened in the courtyard.

When Robbie hears there is a chance of Dottie going to the dance with Charlie, he sings "Who's the Boss," in which he plots to get Dottie back.

Dottie gets home from school, and hears her mother, Wendy, talking on the phone with Robbie's mother. When Wendy gets off the phone, her and her husband Walter attempt to convince Dottie to get back together with Robbie, and sing praises about Robbie in the song, "Better than the Rest."

Furious, Dottie storms out the door. Her parents let her go, thinking she just needs time to cool off.

Dottie goes to Mama's, a lively diner in town. She approaches the counter and sees Charlie working. The two talk, and Charlie notices Dottie is alone, and goes on break to keep her company while she eats.

The two make idle chit-chat, neither really quite sure how to talk to the other, but realize through the song, "Getting to Know You," that even though they look and were raised different, they're both still just people.

The song is broken up by Robbie, who is shocked at the sight of Charlie and Dottie sitting together. The two boys get into an argument, with Robbie promising to show Charlie "what's up" in the Freaky Friday dance-off; the night's main event.

At Freaky Friday, Charlie's team, The Steptations, are challenged by Robbie's team, the Dancing Machines. The two teams take turns showing off their moves in "Metronome."

Once the dancing ends, the judges tally scores and Robbie offers to take Dottie to the dance, but she tells him that she's going with Charlie, shocking both of the boys.

The judges come back and announce Charlie's team has won, infuriating Robbie who storms out of the restaurant.

The night winds down, and Charlie tells Dottie he is excited to go to the dance with her. While Charlie and Boom are closing up for the night, Robbie and Tommy come back and heckle Charlie.

When Dottie comes downstairs the next morning, Robbie is eating breakfast with her parents. When Dottie asks what he is doing there, her parents explain that Robbie came over to tell them about the previous evening. Robbie told her parents several lies about Charlie's character, even claiming that Charlie was caught stealing from his own mother's restaurant.

Ignoring Dottie's denials, her parents and Robbie sing "Blinded," and the parents learn Charlie's black. They insist that Dottie cannot date someone who isn't like them, which causes Dottie to storm upstairs to her room.

Robbie leaves, and Jax and Bonnie arrive to drop off Dottie's dress for the dance. Dottie's parents ask them to talk some sense into Dottie, and call her downstairs to meet them. The trio talks, and her friends insist that Dottie should go to the dance. They sing the song "Blinded Reprise" together, promising to have Dottie's back no matter what.

The dance scene opens with "Back to School Dance," where all the students sing about how excited they are about kicking off their senior year. The song ends, and the students start to slow dance.

The scene is interrupted by a furious Robbie who gets into a fight with Charlie. The fight ends with Robbie and Tommy ganging up on Charlie to beat him up.

Angry, Dottie tells Robbie she isn't some prize to be won, and that she wanted to go to the dance with Charlie because he's a genuinely nice guy who doesn't shut her down like Robbie always did. A teacher breaks up the drama and escorts Robbie and Tommy out of the dance.

Two of Robbie's friends go and apologize to Charlie, saying that if they knew he was going to get physical, they would have tried to talk him down. The ensemble then sings "Lessons Learned," questioning what they have been raised to believe about people unlike themselves.

Once the song ends, Dottie apologizes to Charlie for the events of the night, but Charlie says the night is still young, which leads into the "Back to School Dance Reprise." The show ends with this number, where the students reflect on the events of the evening and look towards a more hopeful future, and a "Golden Year."





Top: Robbie Richards punched Charlie Chamberlain at the back to school dance.
Bottom: Charlie Chamberlain and Dottie Wagner getting to know each other at Mama's.







Top: Charlie Chamberlain and The Steptations at Freaky Friday dance-off.
Bottom: Student body finally turns against Robbie after he punches Charile.

Mr. and Ms. Montevallo



Jeffrey Odgers



Sarah Engle

Fancher named College Night Dedicatee

By WAID JONES, Editor-in-chief

On Feb. 7, Andrew Fancher was named the 2020 College Night Dedicatee.

Fancher, a member of Palmer Staff, the facility manager for the center for the arts and special events coordinator, has worked tirelessly throughout his time at Montevallo to support the tradition of College Night.

When asked, leaders of both Gold Side and Purple sides had nothing but good things to say. Others on the sides jokingly described Fancher as the "god of Palmer auditorium," the unofficial leader of Green Side and the glue that holds College Night together.

Each year the College Night dedication is awarded to a member of the University community who goes above and beyond to help preserve the University's unique over 100-year-old homecoming tradition, and Fancher is no exception.

When talking with and leaders about College Night both current and former it's difficult to not have someone sing Fancher's praises. Even in conversations unrelated to College Night Fancher's humor and love of memes are a common topic.

Working on Palmer Staff for years his dedication has known no boundaries, often spending late nights in the January and early February to assist in both sides with putting on their shows.

"Fancher is a tough one to figure out at first," said Alex Binion, Gold Side male leader adding that Fancher "is one of the friendliest, most personable people out there."

Ultimately, as Rylee Holt Gold Side female leader said, Palmer Staff is the glue that holds the tradition together, and at their head Fancher often serves as both mediator and consoler.

"He constantly keeps you smiling with jokes, memes and just by being him," said Bria Owens, Purple Side female leader.

Fancher's commitment to the College Night tradition extends beyond simply being neutral, and embodies the underlying idea behind green side as he goes above and beyond to assist both sides in their productions.

"He holds the balance between the two different sides with exquisite grace for such a big guy," said Binion. "He's willing to do anything we need from him because he genuinely cares about the players as people not side leaders or members."

His tried and true dedication and his contributions to College Night have not gone unnoticed by the people who he has touched throughout the years.

"College Night would not be the same without him," said Owens.

"When I look back at my College Night experience as a whole he and the entirety of Palmer staff will hold a special place in my heart!" said Holt.

Purple wins cont.



Queen Daffodillia before Clara's eyes after refusing magic to save her life.



Magical creature showing Clara his rash he needs help with.



Clara fighting creature in the Forest of the Dead.



Disgruntled magical creatures venting their feelings about being suppressed by the Queen.

The Alabamian

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Athletics' breast cancer awareness game

By ARIEL HALL, Lifestyles editor



On Feb. 15, 2020 Freshman Marisa Snodgrass, finished the women's breast cancer awareness game, with 9 points, 6 assists and 2 rebounds.

The UM athletic teams continued to raise money for breast cancer with their Breast Cancer Awareness Game on Saturday, Feb. 15 at 2 p.m. at the women's basketball game against Christian Brothers University.

At the game, the Athletics Department hosted a silent auction with a pink basketball signed by the women's basketball team. Other activities at the game included a bake sale and face painting, as well as selling t-shirts, with all proceeds benefiting breast cancer research.

Christian Brothers pulled over a win on Montevallo with the final score of 94-86.

Christian Brothers had a 15-point lead and got out of the first ten minutes 28-13. After that, the opposing team only outscored the Falcons by one, 24-23, during the second quarter.

The Falcons went into the second half with Christian Brothers still in the lead 52-36, but then went to work and outscored Christian Brothers by four in the third and four during the fourth quarter.

One notable player, sophomore Shyan Flack scored 31 points, 7 of them from the free throw line.

Senior Paige Ward also came in later with several three-point baskets. By the end of the game, Ward had knocked down five shots from behind.

Freshman Marisa Snodgrass, finished with 8 points, 6 assists and 2 rebounds.

Montevallo will return to action on Thursday, Feb. 20 when the Falcons travel to Valdosta, Ga., to play Valdosta State University.

SGA RECAP

By HARRISON NEVILLE, SGA columnist

In their first meeting since homecoming week, the Senate gathered in Farmer Hall to discuss resolutions, hear reports and swear in new members.

In executive reports, Madison Hollon, SGA Vice President, informed the Senate that she was compiling a list of items that should be in the student organization resource room that SGA had previously discussed putting into Farmer, and asked for input from Senators.

The University's Sustainability Committee hosted a make and take event on Feb. 11.

There were two items of new business, the swearing in of a Senator and a resolution brought to the Senate floor.

Jodiann Martin was sworn in as the new Athletic Senator.

The resolution brought to the floor was Resolution 001, which stated that UM should provide hand sanitizer stations in the basement of Davis Hall.

In their report to the Senate, the Students Rights and Interest Committee stated that it was their belief that the station is necessary in the basement of Davis to help prevent the spread of germs. They also explained that the reason they had previously been unable to get support for this from Physical Plant was that Physical Plant believed the stations would be superfluous because students in Davis could just wash their hands.

The Students Rights and Interest Committee disagreed with this viewpoint. It was the expressed view of the committee that the installation of hand sanitizer stations in Davis would help keep students from getting sick.

After the Senate was finished asking questions, the resolution was tabled until next meeting.

The screening of the movie, "Eight Days," will take place in Farmer on Feb. 18, followed by WOW Weekend Feb. 21-22.

The Junior League in Birmingham will come to speak about human trafficking at the Feb. 26 Town Hall.

Applications for SGA are due in the Student Life office by March 6.

SGA will host a blood drive on March 17 and 18.

The Big Event is scheduled for April 4.

City Council adresses new building developments

By ARIEL HALL, Lifestyles editor

When the Montevallo City Council reconvened on Monday, Feb. 10 at 6 p.m. citizens raised their concerns about arising developments in the area.

The meeting began with a public hearing regarding a request from Chris Reebals, on behalf of Montevallo Cottages LLC. This request was to change zoning districts from R-2 SD to R-4 SD for construction of multi-family housing.

According to Mayor Hollie Cost, the Planning Commission reviewed the request on Jan. 16 and recommended City Council not approve the change.

The Montevallo Cottages proposal was not passed.

A public hearing regarding a request from Paul Widman, on behalf of property owner Brenda Zigarelli, for the approval of the Bluegrass Apartments development plan also took place.

When opened to public comment, several citizens voiced their concerns, including water drainage issues, increased traffic and effect on property values.

The council decided to approve the construction of the Bluegrass development with a 4-2 vote.

Councilmen Rusty Nix and Arthur Hebert voted against the site development plan. Hebert expressed that he had concerns about the development's impact on nearby property values.

The City Council then heard a presentation from Ammersee Lakes developer Tom Bagley, who wanted to divide the cost of repaving roads.

"My proposal is for us to divide the costs," said Bagley. "We put repair into the first sector and the second sector and work out a situation where we can all work together."

The City Council heard his request, but opted to table the discussion for a later date.

The council also unanimously passed three other ordinances at this meeting.

The first declared April 2020 as Beautification Month, to coincide with other initiatives like Love Montevallo Day. The other ordinances approved a Boys & Girls Club sign and accepted the bicentennial park site from Montevallo Development Cooperative District.

There were also a few recognitions given out. The first was a recognition to the city from Tree City USA, a program with the Arbor Day Foundation, for reaching 27 years of membership. Then, Mayor Cost and Montevallo High School's principal Steve Bromley recognized seniors in Scholar's Bowl for qualifying for their state competition.

The Montevallo City Council will meet again on Monday, Feb. 24 at 6 p.m. All city council meetings are open to the public.

UM Board freezes tuition and fees

By HARRISON NEVILLE, Copy editor

The Board of Trustees has chosen to freeze tuition, room and fees for the 2020-2021 school year. This will be the second-year that tuition and fees will have been frozen at UM. The freeze last year was solely focused on tuition and did not affect the raising or lowering of room and fees.

"I think [the freeze] will help students in need meet tuition requirements," said Dr. Tammi Dahle, the vice president of student affairs.

"We are cognitive of students in need," added Chairman at the UM Board of Trustees, Todd Strange.

The freeze will not affect out of state or graduate tuition levels. It will also not affect meal plans and students should expect to see a slight raise in the cost of their meal plans next year.

Strange expressed his belief that UM would not always be able to freeze tuition, but that it would be fine for the upcoming year.

The Board briefly discussed the replacement of Moe's and the possibility of bringing Pita Pit to UM. Since there is a Pita Pit at the University of Alabama, SGA President, Olivia Eldridge reported that she had reached out their SGA and received positive feedback from them about Pita Pit.

Student Trustee, Thomas Dillard conveyed that he believed students were grateful over the changes that had been made to counseling services.

Dr. Mary Beth Armstrong, the Vice President for Academic Affairs, reported on how the Academic Affairs Committee was working to revise the Faculty Handbook. One of the biggest sections they were working on was revisions to the advising process.

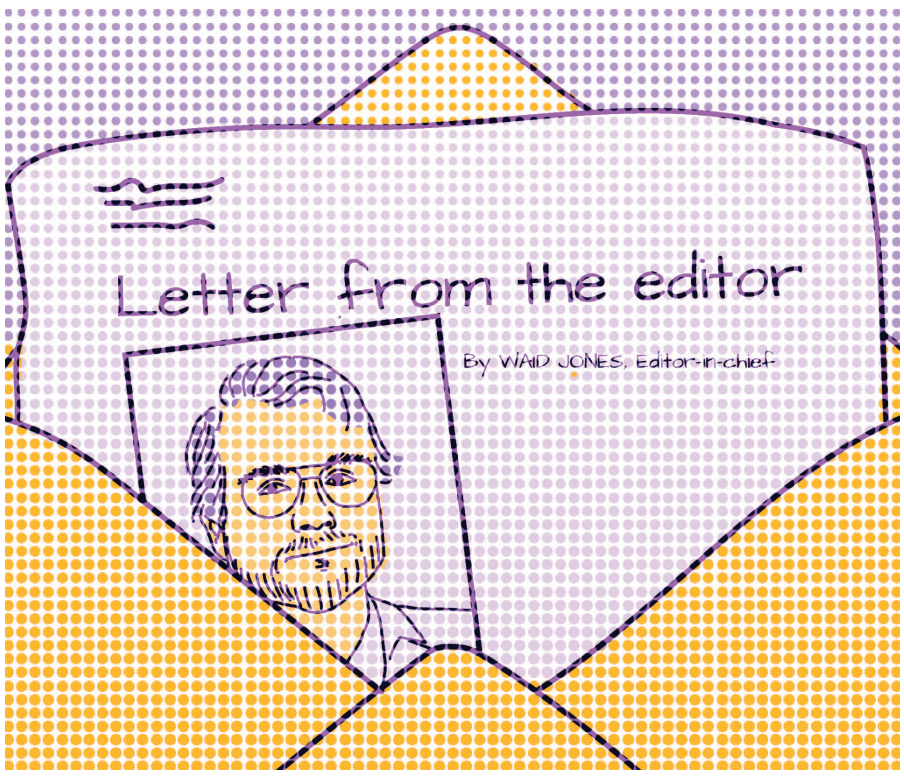
Typos in the 2021-2022 academic calendar were revised.

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www.facebook.com/TheAlabamian

Viewpoints



I'd like to take this letter from the editor to thank everyone who helped us through our College Night coverage. We saw massive jumps in readership and in our social media over the last few weeks and that was fantastic.

Photographs from our entire coverage of the College Night Season are on our website in one big gallery ready for you to be able to peruse and look for yourself and friends. We also covered some really fantastic stories about the Vintage Purple Alumni Club as well as Gold Side's record-breaking sign.

Both of those stories are up online as well which has had some rearranging done to it over the last few days so that hopefully you will be able to better find what you're looking for.

However, this year we definitely missed some interesting stories while focusing so much of our efforts on covering UM's unique homecoming tradition. For that, I'm sorry.

We narrowed in and focused on one thing instead of trying to continue to cover the campus as a whole. I'm sure that some people will think this apology isn't necessary, but to me and those who reached out it definitely is.

The focus of The Alabamian is to cover UM's campus community as a whole and to not leave out specific groups or individuals, which we absolutely did.

Part of this was that The Alabamian has a limited number of writers, but part of it was also that I created a College Night distortion field around myself. In this field, few things other than College Night managed to hold my attention for longer than a few moments. This meant that the recent issues of The Alabamian have been lacking in their non-College Night coverage.

With the competition over and a large part of the semester still in front of us it's my hope that we can continue to branch out and cover a few new and interesting things. A podcast is, as it has been, on the way and it should allow The Alabamian and the staff to branch out into new formats to present journalism to the student body.

We're also beginning to build out a coverage schedule and trying to hire new members of staff that should allow us to better cover athletics, if you have any interest in writing sports stories email me at alabamian@montevallo.edu. I'd love to hear from you.

We are always looking for new voices and new people to join The Alabamian staff. We are all students and finding new students already with an interest in reading the newspaper allows us to continue to grow as journalists and for The Alabamian to grow as a fixture of UM's campus.

We rely on students to provide us with both news and writing talent. I encourage you to become involved with student publications and The Alabamian in particular.

As a student, anyone is invited to join The Alabamian or present concerns to us at our weekly meetings (Wednesdays at 5 p.m. in the Student Publications Office, behind the post office in Farmer). Like I said, we'd love to hear from anyone about their comments and concerns regarding the newspaper.

It is also you, the reader, who share a really important part in your ability to remind us when our focus is too narrow. When we have forgotten this important part of our job as student journalists. I thank those who reached out and called us out on our failures. I love to hear this kind of feedback because it allows us to course correct and begin to move in the right direction.

It's not always easy, and it's not always fast but I hope that this course correct will come into fruition over the next few issues as we navigate the rest of the academic year.

This direction will also hopefully carry over through the future of the paper and allow us to better represent the campus as a whole. If you feel left out, underrepresented, or noticed that we have just failed to cover something, let us know. We want to know.

OP-ED: Trump was wrong, how Pelosi also got it wrong

By XANDER SWAIN

The State of the Union Address (SOTU) was given Feb. 4. Among the main discussions surrounding the speech were Donald Trump's claims of progress and achievements. People felt as though the SOTU was less of a report and more of an advertisement for his re-election campaign. On the other side of the political spectrum, conservatives were outraged at Nancy Pelosi ripping Trump's speech, some even claiming it was illegal.

I could go on and on about Trump's claims, how I believe they are hypocritical, and even straight lies at times, but I will instead address Pelosi and her retaliation to Trump. The conservative side of social media, specifically Twitter, believed that Pelosi herself was hypocritical and outrageous in her reasoning for ripping Trump's speech. Many have called for her removal, and even arrest, claiming she broke the law when she tore an 'official government document.' Pelosi didn't break the law; she just ripped her copy.

I understand the praise for Pelosi. She took a stand. According to Pelosi, the tearing of each paper stood for the rejection of each lie that Trump told. Pelosi said that she looked at each page and could only see lies.

In truth, Trump's SOTU was a performance, and he recited campaign claims of the decline of the unemployment rate, the relief of 7 million people on food stamps and many others. These claims only go so far, and if one looks into them, they are clearly illegitimate.

I respect what Pelosi did, and I respect the fact that she took this position. But when you are the speaker of the House of Representatives, and you rely on taking action in forms of dramatized acts, it says something. Theatrical public acts of rejection only serve the American public to a certain degree. These acts done by not only Pelosi, but also countless other politicians in our country, serve to appear as resistance to the public while maintaining their position as a member of the political establishment and ruling class.

To achieve real progress in our society, we must make actual change through legitimate legislative action. Clapping at the President, tearing up a speech or tweeting at him doesn't change the oppressive policies of the Trump administration, and it doesn't change the political fabric of our country. It's expected of politicians to take part in the surface value theatrics.

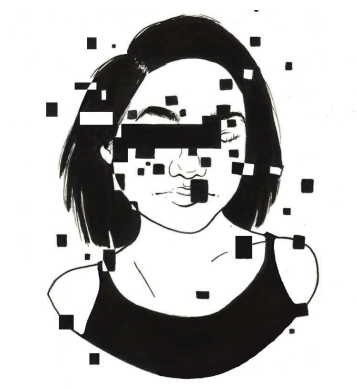
A call to action isn't superfluous either. Pelosi has had every opportunity to oppose unjustifiable legislation and the morally corrupt administration. Pelosi could have blocked a $738 billion defense budget; instead, she encouraged it. Pelosi could have denied funding for the administration's border camps, and she could have pushed additional articles of impeachment outlining the Trump administration's corruption. Instead, Pelosi and other establishment Democrats continue to play into the expectations set by the political narrative.

They lack efficacy and make decisions for corporate America at the expense of the people. They make decisions for themselves and the interest groups that back them. 'They' are the politicians on both sides who continue to perform as actors on the stage of American politics, while then turning around and spitting on the people that support them. They are the puppets of lobbying whose strings will be cut by the new wave of progressives.

Submit your questions to *alabamian@montevallo.edu* for a chance to be featured in our next issue!

You don't have to be hot

By Anna Grace Askelson



Blogger Erin McKean has a quote about beauty that I have been absorbing and realizing since I first heard it in middle school.

"You Don't Have to Be Pretty. You don't owe prettiness to anyone. Not to your boyfriend/spouse/partner, not to your co-workers, especially not to random men on the street… you don't owe it to civilization in general. Prettiness is not a rent you pay for occupying a space marked 'female.'"

As a member of Gen. Z, I have often heard the sentiments, "everyone is beautiful," and "inner beauty is more important than outer beauty." When I was an angsty middle schooler in the throes of self-hatred I could not find it in myself to believe either of those two thoughts. That all changed when I read this quote.

For some reason I have always thought that I needed to be attractive in order to be happy or valuable. I think this misconception is shared by many people, especially women. So many women in my life fear going out in public without makeup and won't even go shopping without getting ready first.

For some people, this habit is one of self-care. I personally take great joy in dressing up and looking pretty for whatever occasion I can. I understand and appreciate femininity, self-care, fashion and makeup. The issue with this habit arises when someone cannot go outside looking less than perfect without becoming deeply anxious.

The unfortunate truth is that many women feel a deep urge to perform femininity at all times in order to simply exist peacefully.

This is because, in our society, most women are raised to believe they are valuable partly or solely because they are beautiful. This way of thinking is taught many ways, to a variety of extents and can be taught consciously or unconsciously.

When my friends worry about their appearance, the comforting answer is always "no, you look beautiful." Often, this is true! I believe all people have some level of beauty, and that everyone is attractive to someone. However, this truth is not as important as a more basic one: beauty does not give a human their value.

You do not exist to be beautiful; you owe it to no one and it does not give you value.

Humans are valuable simply because of their humanity: no caveats, no exceptions.

Dolled up in makeup and flattering clothes, or bare faced, sweaty, and in sweatpants, you are still valuable and you are still you.

Learning and processing this concept was hugely freeing for me as a young girl. I had felt for the longest time that because I had no male attention- basically, no boys in middle school had a crush on me- I was inherently less valuable than my peers. I was less beautiful, and since I thought beauty gave value, I was thus worth less as a whole person.

Thankfully, I realized how incorrect and dangerous this idea was. Though societal teaching and internal loneliness can make it feel like one's physical attractiveness is a hugely defining trait, it is not.

When I learned I did not exist to be attractive to others, several things changed.

First, I hated myself less. I knew I was smart, funny and interesting, I just thought that since I was ugly, in my own perception of myself, all of those facts were small and unimportant. But, if beauty didn't give me value, I could ignore how I felt about my body and just focus on the traits I enjoyed about myself.

Second, I gave myself permission to express myself how I wanted to, without regard to how others would think of me. If others finding me attractive doesn't make me valuable, then I can pair a leopard print skirt and a polka dot skirt. I can wear 80's suit pants on Wednesday, oversized clothes in monochromatic pink on Thursday and a miniskirt on Friday.

I can be free to wear what I want when I want because I want to. Because I'm not dressing for anyone else, I can be as colorful and expressive and as modest or sexy as I want to be.

I can be put together or completely disheveled, and I am the same person with the same value.

Lastly, I could learn to love myself on my own terms. I don't need to worry what the cute boy at the library thinks of my body because I think that it is great.

Ignoring societal perspectives on my body allows me to appreciate it more authentically. I don't have to love my stomach when its flat and hate it when its not, I can appreciate it at all times for being an important part of me.

Realizing I don't need to be beautiful to be valuable changed me. It let me be comfortable in my own skin, express myself and love myself.

Building self esteem and tearing down years of self hatred is incredibly difficult, but it can start when you allow yourself to simply exist; free of the outdated notion that you must look good.

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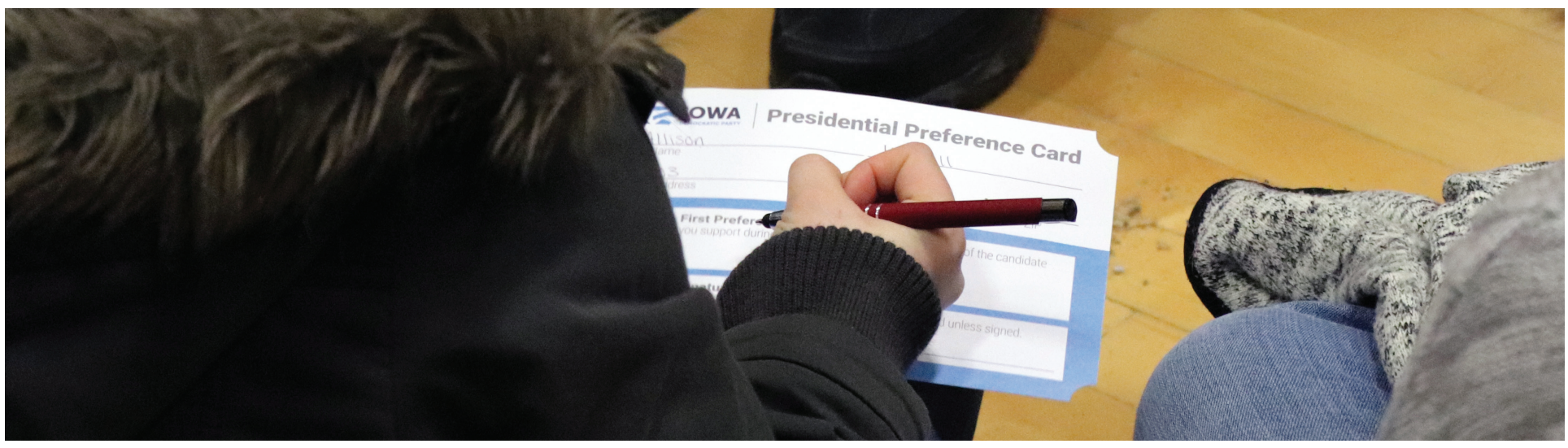
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What you need to know about the primary

By WAID JONES, Editor-in-chief



Individual filling out their Presidential Preference Card. Photo by Jonathan Rogers from The Little Hawk

The Alabama Primary will take place on March 3.

Democratic presidential candidates have widely ignored Alabama, with few rallies happening with candidates present, but with a field split into almost thirds Alabama could help decide who the ultimate nominee of the Democratic party is.

Alabama's primary will be held on March 3, also known as Super Tuesday, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and because of Alabama's open primary system you are allowed to vote in either the Democratic or Republican primaries as long as you registered to vote on or before Feb. 14 for hand delivered voter registration forms, Feb. 15 for mail registration or Feb. 17 for online registration.

During the primary, Alabama residents will get the opportunity to vote for delegates to be sent to the Democratic or Republican National Conventions. These delegates will then vote for the ultimate candidate for their respective parties.

Senator Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., is currently the apparent front runner but with votes and delegates from each of the previous primaries and caucuses split with such small margins – Sanders only defeated Mayor Pete Buttigieg by 2 points in the New Hampshire Primary, a contest in which he secured 60% of the vote in 2016 – it is a possibility that front runners may change wildly over the course of Super Tuesday.

Sanders has been outspoken about his support for a Medicare for All plan that would create a public healthcare option, and is also focusing on lowering college tuition. Sanders has proposed steep tax increases on the wealthiest of Americans to pay for his proposals.

Unlike many of his opponents, this is not Sanders' first bid for the democratic presidential nomination. The independent from Vermont has vyed for a presidential nomination in three different presidential election contests, and almost won the nomination in 2016 against former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Buttigieg, the mayor of South Bend, IN, has taken a much more moderate stance than many of his rivals in the Democratic primary. The 35-year-old mayor has attempted to utilize his moderate lean to make a case for his electability. This, Buttigieg has stated on the debate stage will allow him to win over undecided voters, moderates and Republicans disaffected by the party's support of President Donald Trump in a general election against the current president.

The South Bend, Indiana Mayor's detractors feel that Buttigieg lacks the national name recognition or executive experience needed to win a presidential election against Trump. Others have noted the president hopeful's mixed record on race.

Other front runners include Senator Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn. Klobuchar has placed herself as a moderate alternative who carried districts in Minnesota that Trump had secured in the 2016 election. Klobuchar was not seen as a front runner until her incredibly strong showing in the New Hampshire primary.

Because of this she's been a relative unknown. Klobuchar has represented Minnesota in the U.S. Senate for 13 years, and was first elected to the Senate in 2007.

Klobuchar trailed Buttigieg by 4 points in the New Hampshire primary and Sanders by 2 points, making her a possible candidate. Recently, Klobuchar has been battling over similar voters as Buttigieg as former Vice President Joe Biden's campaign has lost steam in the primary contests.

It's not yet reasonable to count out Senator Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., simply because of poor performance in the early contests, especially considering the debacle that was this year's Iowa Democratic Primary.

The first-term senator from Massachusetts, and former assistant chair of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, has built her campaign on many of the same platforms as Bernie Sander's; however, Warren has taken slightly more moderate stances.

Other candidates on the primary ballet will include Democratic and Republican nominees for district court judges. Senator Doug Jones, D-Ala., and Representative Gary Palmer, R-Ala., will also be on the ballot, however they are both running unopposed in their respective primary elections.

Running in the Republican primary for the Senate seat currently held by Jones, is former Senator and secretary of state Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., Representative Bradley Byrne, R-Ala.-1, who is currently serving as the representative of the Alabama District 1 in the US House, Judge Roy Moore, who previously competed against Jones in the 2017 special election, and Tommy Tuberville who is a former Auburn Football coach.

Sessions previously held this Senate seat for 20 years, between 1997 and 2017, before he vacated the seat to accept a position as Trump's Attorney General. He then resigned this position in November 2018.

There are no challengers to Representative Gary Palmer, R-Ala., who is the congressional representative of Alabama's 6th congressional district which includes Montevallo, Shelby County and portions of the Southern Birmingham suburbs.

There are no Democrats running in the primary for the 6th District which means that Palmer will run unopposed in the general election for his seat in the House of Representatives.

Faculty Senate discussed senior grade due dates

By HARRISON NEVILLE, SGA columnist

Montevallo's Faculty Senate met Friday, Feb. 14.

The primary topic of discussion at the meeting was the decision by the University to keep the due dates for senior grades the same.

This same issue came up in an SGA Senate meeting, and many senators expressed their preference for the grades to remain due at the same date so that seniors could receive their diplomas on graduation day.

A week after the issue was first brought to the attention of the SGA, Dr. Dahle informed SGA President Olivia Eldridge that the due date for seniors grades would remain the same.

The Faculty Senate had a very different viewpoint than the SGA.

When faculty senate president, Dr. Tiffany Wang, informed the Faculty Senate of the University's decision many of the Senators reacted with outrage, particularly when Wang told them that the administration had informed her that they were making the decision without any Faculty input.

Wang conveyed that she had been informed some students were polled prior to the decision, but expressed her own doubts on the thoroughness of the polling. She also said that she had been informed that some alumni had expressed concern over the change.

Several Faculty Senators responded by asking why any alumni should care about when graduating seniors received their diplomas.

The Faculty Senate discussed possibly passing a resolution to express their belief that the due date for Senior grades should be pushed back.

After several reports had been given, Dr. John Stewart III, UM president, came to speak to the Faculty Senate.

UM is currently looking to hire a new chief information officer. Stewart acknowledged that the relationship between IS&T had been poor, and highlighted that as the chief reason that they were being very selective in their consideration for the CIO.

"IS&T and campus relations disintegrated with Craig at the helm," said Stewart.

Stewart clarified that this was not meant as an insult, but was merely a breakdown of what he saw as the facts.

Stewart also discussed the idea of increasing the number of staff sabbaticals allowed per year. He outlined the issue as becoming a sabbatical versus travel grant money for professors.

Dr. Raymond Ozley, an associate professor for communication and a Senator for the department of communication, raised the idea of offering fundraising options for faculty sabbaticals. The idea being that if the money was provided by donors, then the University wouldn't have to choose between increasing travel grants and increasing sabbaticals.

Stewart also discussed the idea of moving around funds. He stated that if there were funds going to waste that maybe they could be used to fund something like Faculty Sabbaticals.

Prior to Stewart's arrival, the Senate had been discussing information that some of their members had brought forward from a meeting of the Technology Advisory Council that the University was considering no longer keeping a subscription to Box.

Many of the Senators expressed concern over this, stating that many files were already stored on box, and that it would be a large inconvenience to switch to a new system at this time.

When asked, Stewart stated that he didn't know anything about the situation with Box, but that he would get back to the Senate once he knew more.

Senators reported that new minors for Sports Business and Cybersecurity had been approved with revisions. A new general education course will also be added to the course list, the new course will be designated Pysch 202.

The University is also looking for a new Chief Financial Officer.

New senior class president

By ARIEL HALL, Lifestyles Editor



Justin Williams, Senior Class President

After the SGA senior class president, Kendall Criswell, voluntarily resigned from office at the beginning of the semester, SGA President Olivia Eldridge was challenged with filling the position.

According to Eldridge, it was a quick turnaround. Applications were open and available for a week or so before the interview process began.

Both Eldridge and Madison Hollon, SGA vice president, stated they believed that Justin Williams, the new senior class president, was right for the job.

Williams first came to Montevallo in 2015. He served on Freshman Forum as treasurer and then on executive board as Director of Social Services during his sophomore and junior year. Last year, Williams served in Diversity Outreach.

Though Williams was not around last semester due to an internship, he wants to help in whatever way he can.

"I'm just trying to bring more diversity to everything," said Williams. "I want to make sure that everyone's voice is heard and then I want to make sure that I do as much as I can to help as many people."

UM Theatre puts on "Midsummer"

By DAKOTA PATRICK & KIMMI LANGE



The University of Montevallo Theatre Department is proud to present an exciting new spin on Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream presented in the Chichester Black Box Theatre directed/adapted by Michael Walker, from Feb. 27 through March 1 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. This production will explore gender, identity and love while also including some fun effects.

Set in modern day New York City, this whimsical comedy centers around four lovers who are hoodwinked by a mischievous fairy, Puck. You won't want to miss this unique adaptation running for only five performances. "Fun, magical, and brilliant" are just a few words cast member Kodi Mae McDearmont used to describe this production.

When asked what separates this production from others before it, Director Michael Walker said, "What makes this version of "Midsummer" unique is that I have intentionally changed and re-gendered several characters and have included use of the 'they/them' pronouns to reflect a more contemporary understanding of the fluidity of gender. In adapting the script, I have also added more modern references: instead of using an almanac to find out if the moon shines the night they perform, Peter Quince simply pulls out their cell phone and googles the information needed."

Upon entering the Chi Box, the audience will be transported to a rooftop bar with effervescent music, twinkling lights and an atmosphere of pure magic.

Tickets can be purchased online at montevallotickets.universitytickets.com so be sure to get yours quickly before seats sell out! Ticket prices are as follows: $20 General Admission, $12 UM Faculty/Staff/Seniors, and $10 Students with a valid Student ID. For accessibility accommodations, please visit montevallo.edu/disabilityaccess. For more information regarding this performance, please contact our theatre office in Reynolds Hall at 205-665-6210. We can't wait to see you there!



ASK ? ARIEL

By ARIEL HALL, Lifestyles editor

Dear Ariel,

Recently, I was at a party with some friends and ended up watching over like eight drinks while they were in the bathroom because I didn't want to leave them unattended. What kind of tips do you have about staying safe at parties?

From,
Party Parent

Dear Party Parent,

First, I'd like to say I commend you for asking. Whenever you're in college, of course you want to have fun, but it's also important to recognize and respect your limitations.

As far as staying safe, the biggest piece of advice I would give to you is use your gut. If something doesn't feel right, then it probably isn't. Stay hydrated and don't take drinks from strangers.

So, when it comes to parties, remember that it's okay to say no. Respect your boundaries and stick with people you trust. Above all, always be responsible and never drive drunk. Whether you call a friend to drive you home or call a service or have a designated driver, it's better to be safe.

With all of that being said, don't forget to have fun and make the most of it. Stay safe!

Sincerely,
Ariel

Dear Ariel,

The primaries for the election are coming up soon and I want to vote. However, I don't think I'm informed enough to go vote. I'm not even sure where to go to get my information because I feel like people I ask all have a bias. What should I do?

Sincerely,
Politically Minded

Dear Politically Minded,

I'm so excited that you want to find out more. I know several people who opt to not vote at all because they don't think that they're educated enough to or that their vote doesn't matter. Primaries aren't until the beginning of March, so I still think you have time to get informed.

When it comes to voting, especially to those who are new to voting, it's easy to get overwhelmed with all the information that's being thrown at you. An easy way to combat this is to start small. Come up with a list of questions you may have about a specific person or all the candidates. Figure out where they stand on certain issues that you may be invested in.

These are a great place to start and can lead you into more information and deeper conversation with others.

See you at the polls!

Sincerely,
Ariel

Dear Ariel,

How do you slide into someone's DMs?

Sincerely,
Smooth Slider

Dear Smooth Slider,

First thing I'd consider before doing anything is what your relationship is to each other. If it's a classmate or a friend or coworker, then definitely keep in mind how whatever you do affects this relationship you have. Though, take all the information with a grain of salt and do what makes you happy.

That being said, also keep in mind what platform you want to use. If they're more active on Twitter, maybe reply to their tweet, or if they're more active on Instagram, try replying to their story.

I say shoot your shot. Keep it casual and take a breath.

Hope this helps.

Sincerely,
Ariel

Dear Ariel,

There's someone I know who recently got diagnosed with an STI but feels too ashamed of getting treated. How do I comfort my friend?

Sincerely,
A Worried Friend

Dear Worried Friend,

STIs can be an unexpected problem that comes up and your friend is so valid in their emotions. The biggest thing to remember is to listen to them and respect their space.

Unlike other infections, STIs come with a stigma, so talking about their diagnosis could be difficult for them. Understand the bigger issue at hand and educate yourself.

Even if they're not willing to talk about their diagnosis, point them towards resources and support. Whether you go with them to the clinic or to their general practitioner.

An STI diagnosis can be really difficult to deal with, so being there for your friend can make a difference in the long run.

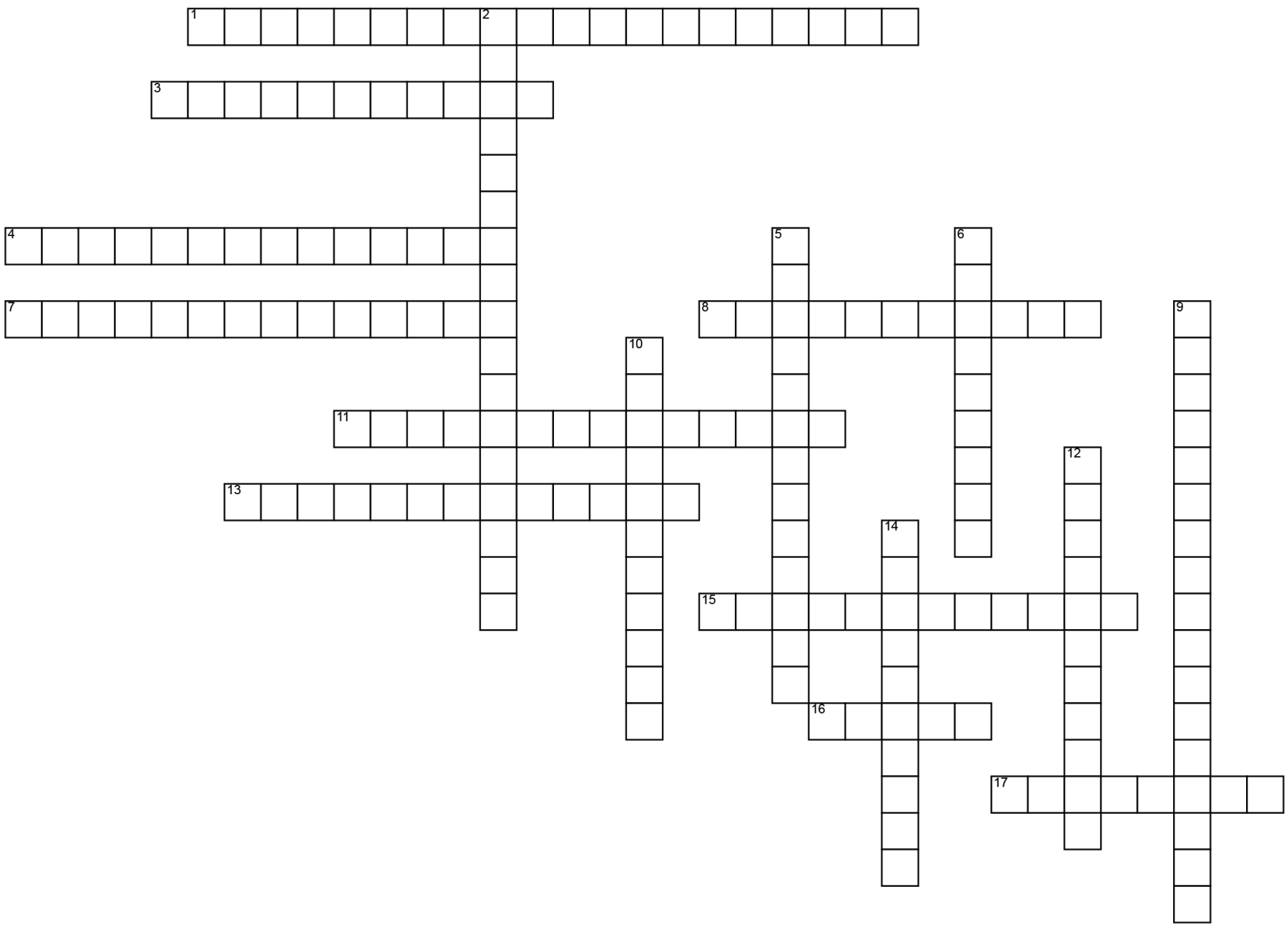
Sincerely,
Ariel

***Disclaimer*

"The advice offered in this column is intended for informational purposes only. Use of this column not intended to replace or substitute for any professional, financial, medical, legal, or other professional advice. If you have specific concerns or a situation in which you require professional, psychological or medical help, you should consult with an appropriately trained and qualified specialist. This column, its author, the newspaper and publisher are not responsible for the outcome or results of following any advice in any given situation. You, and only you, are completely responsible for your actions."

Crossword

By HARRISON NEVILLE, Copy editor



ACROSS

1. Preacher and civil rights leader who led the march at Selma
3. NAACP lawyer who was killed in Mississippi
4. The first African American to play in Major League Baseball in the modern era
7. Escaped slave and famous speaker; Well known for speech about her womanhood
8. The first African American President
11. What happens to a dream deferred
13. Most educated First Lady
15. Famous Civil Rights Writer
16. TV personality with large book club
17. Civil Rights leader and Muslim Minister

DOWN

2. Author of "A Raisin in The Sun"
5. Famous escaped and abolitionists who worked with the underground railroad
6. First African American to receive a Ph.D. from Harvard University
9. Editor of the abolitionists paper The North Star
10. Famous boxer and civil rights activist
12. Representative for Alabama's 7th congressional district
14. Eighteen time NBA all-star, five time NBA champion and two time Olympic gold medalist

Harley Quinn and the Fantabulous world she's created

By KATY BARNES, Lifestyles columnist



Katy Barnes, Lifestyles Columnist

In 2016, DC released "Suicide Squad" in hopes that it would be the start they needed to help kickstart their own cinematic universe. Unfortunately, it was received poorly in the box office, and the spinoffs planned for it were all quickly shelved. Cited by many as being problematic and grim, it was a surprise when DC announced they were releasing a sequel focused on Margot Robbie's character in the film, Harley Quinn.

"Harley Quinn: Birds of Prey" released on Feb. 7 of this year, and unlike its predecessor it seems to understand a healthy mix of serious and seriously fun.

The story focuses on the titular Harley Quinn's struggle of discovering who she is outside of the Joker's influence.

Through a handful of very large coincidences she meets the other stars of the film, the Birds of Prey. This team is made up of Renee Montoya, Helena Bertinelli and Dinah Lance, whose paths all cross when they set out to save a young pickpocket from being killed by a villain known as the Black Mask.

Starting with the very first scene, "Birds of Prey" shows that despite its R rating it's inspired more so from Shazam's imagery versus the dark and grim style of "Suicide Squad." DC has discovered fun films sell much better, and so "Birds of Prey" isn't afraid to allude to its comic book past, using color schemes that invoke comic book imagery, and utilizing fun imagery to help illuminate the audience on which characters are which.

The movie begins as an animated backstory, narrated by Harley Quinn. She tells the audience of her life story and it immediately sets the tone as a goofy action flick. While the rest of the movie is live action it never loses the cartoony atmosphere established in the beginning. Combining this with an unafraid to be biased narrator and stellar editing comes together to make a story that flows better than you'd expect.

"Birds of Prey" is also a film that's made explicitly with women in mind. Whereas films like "Suicide Squad" and "Justice League" have been critiqued for their gratuitous usage of the male gaze – camera angles which accentuate a women's assets - "Birds of Prey" goes out of its way to avoid anything remotely seen as your standard cheesecake superheroine poses or costumes. While this decision has been mocked by some, many have applauded this decision as it gives a sense of agency to the characters that drives the idea of the plot.

The sets go the extra mile in showcasing this choice by having every set that takes place in a male dominated space be covered in portraits nude women, or women in compromising positions. The climactic fight scene at the end takes place in one of the Joker's former lairs and it's made up of disembodied heads, bodies and eyes. Black Mask's lounge is made of Women's masks symbolizing the "Speak No Evil, Hear No Evil, Say No Evil" faces, and in the moment where he decides Harley Quinn must die he is surrounded by paintings of naked women.

Another controversial choice made by director Cathy Yan is for all the men to be the bad guys. Not one man is painted as a good character and it's a bold choice that only a woman could make – it acts as a way of reclaiming their space in the same way "Birds of Prey" acts as a way to reclaim Harley Quinn from her persona of the Joker's arm candy.

If "Birds of Prey" is a movie made for women, then Roman Sionis, played by Ewan McGregor, is the perfect villain. Made up of every misogynistic white tendency, he acts as the main antagonist of the film. He's wild in a way only a white man can be, and he hates Harley because she sees right through him. While Sionis is the antagonist, the true conflict he introduces is his entitlement. While in some aspects he feels like a stand in for the Joker, Sionis has a sophisticated air that causes him to unhinge as the film progresses – making him a much more entertaining villain.

"Birds of Prey" is a feminist masterpiece, and it's also a fun film to watch. Where some women superhero films become about the Strong Woman trope, these women are just strong multifaceted characters. It's well worth a watch in theaters, comic book fan or no.

Gorillaz make new music

By NOAH WORTHAM



New album illustration courtesy of Gorillaz

The multi-instrumental, genre defying group Gorillaz are back with a new project. Titled "Song Machine" this work sets itself apart from the rest of their discography. The virtual drummer of the band, Russel, described the project as "a whole new way of doing what we do."

Rather than follow the typical singles then album release cycle, the group will spontaneously deliver tracks and episodes throughout the year. Each new episode of "Song Machine" features a behind the scenes look at the collaboration and production of each track. However, each episode integrates a music video through post-editing. This allows the insertion of virtual band members 2-D, Murdoc, Noodle and Russel along with various effects.

The first episode focuses on the production of the track "Momentary Bliss" It features the talents of British punk-rock band Slaves and the British rapper Slowthai. This allows for a fusion of post-punk textures with the Gorillaz trademark synthesizers. Although this is certainly not their first endeavor into punk, it is certainly one of their most ambitious.

The guitars open the track with a surf rock inspired progression in tandem with a drum-kick. The lyrics start almost immediately into chorus with Slaves' drummer Isaac Holman. The chorus ends with a short bridge that transitions into the first verse provided by Slowthai. Slowthai begins his verse aggressively. Underneath his bursts of lyrics lay wonky synths, gentle cymbal taps and punk riffs.

The instrumentation follows Slowthai's rhythm as the track climaxes into the refrain, which contains the collision of multiple vocals. The refrain then relaxes into the second verse performed by Damon Albarn as 2-D. The track ends with a repetition of the refrain followed by the chorus again. The track closes out like it began except this time with the taps of a hi-hat and a fade out.

The main hook of the track is "we could do so much better than this emotionally in fences and momentary bliss." In this song the Gorillaz challenge the satisfaction of the status quo. They ask why settle for something ephemeral, like momentary bliss, when things could be changed for the better. In one of the lyrics Soulthai raps that "it makes me sick to think you ain't happy in your skin." This tackles societal satisfaction with identity and even body image.

Near the beginning of the song 2-D mentions "Lovely Rita" and continues to throughout the song. This is a reference to the Beatles song by the same name, but it also ties into the theme of "Momentary Bliss." Fittingly, the track refers to this figure as a "poster girl." An individual who is forced to make a living ticketing people in order to simply to pay the "bills."

In a short released by the band called "machine bitez #3" Soulthai states that the song is about "false idols and people who are not in control of their destiny and they lay their destiny to other people and hold themselves to an industry that castrates the business."

This position is not surprising given Gorillaz very political past with tracks like "Hallelujah Money" which tackle corrupt politicians and corporate greed. This viewpoint fits snugly within the Gorillaz message especially considering the woke messaging of the previous project "The Now Now."

Overall, this is an excellent return to form of sorts for the band. Their last two projects, "Humanz" 2016 and "The Now Now" 2018, presented catchy dance tunes and new wave synth-pop. Although "Humanz" presented excellent singles and memorable tunes, it was definitely a disappointing return after a 6-year hiatus from 2010's "The Fall." Unlike most tracks on "Humanz," this piece spotlights the feature without entirely covering up 2-D and the zanier side of Gorillaz.

As a post-punk inspired piece this track had the potential to go too far, however, it was pleasing to see that the Gorillaz and their featured artists keep things simple and fun. The lyrics are political but not too preachy.

This is not to say that the track is perfect. The staccato delivery of the rap lines and lyrics can feel off at times. The track could also use a longer second verse. A bit too much of the song features repetition of the chorus and refrain. The track could benefit from a bit more depth overall, although I understand it is already at almost four minutes and any more length would harm the enjoyment of the song.

This "Song Machine" idea is an excellent chance to place the spotlight on lesser-known artists like Slowthai. It also allows fans to have a better look at the process and behind the scenes production of the songs. The post-editing also provides a lot of interesting opportunities to have the virtual members of the band interact with various features. The tease of a collaboration with Tame Impala has me excited for what the Gorillaz are going to do next with this project.

For more pop culture reviews visit www.TheAlabamian.com

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Horoscopes

By ALEX WARREN

Aries ♈ Take a step back this week. Stay out of the spotlight and check your intuition before making any decisions. The wisest decision you can make is to put your personal life first.

Taurus ♉ This week is the time to take risks! Get out of your comfort zone and do what you've always wanted to! Take some steps and make waves.

Gemini ♊ If you've been thinking about taking a big step in your relationships, go for it Gemini! If your heart leans to more professional paths, it's time to make moves there too.

Cancer ♋ Take this week to learn something new. Even taking the time to revive your love of an old hobby can help you bring on a renewal of energy. You may experience bursting positivity and overall happy spirits!

Leo ♌ Don't forget to take care of yourself. Use this week to relax and practice some self-care, you may need it soon. Taking care of yourself can help alleviate the mental block that you might be feeling.

Virgo ♍ While it has been appreciated how much you have been there for others, take some time to spend time with those you are closest to. Let them take care of you for a change and it can help you find laughter and joy in things again.

Libra ♎ Be careful not to overbook yourself this upcoming week. Double check your planner, and make sure you're taking care of yourself.

Scorpio ♏ You may feel a spike in confidence this week. Take this opportunity to do something you wouldn't normally!

Sagittarius ♐ You may feel some pleasure in your down time. Be productive: clean and organize your space, it's okay to do this on top of your responsibilities, you need not feel guilty.

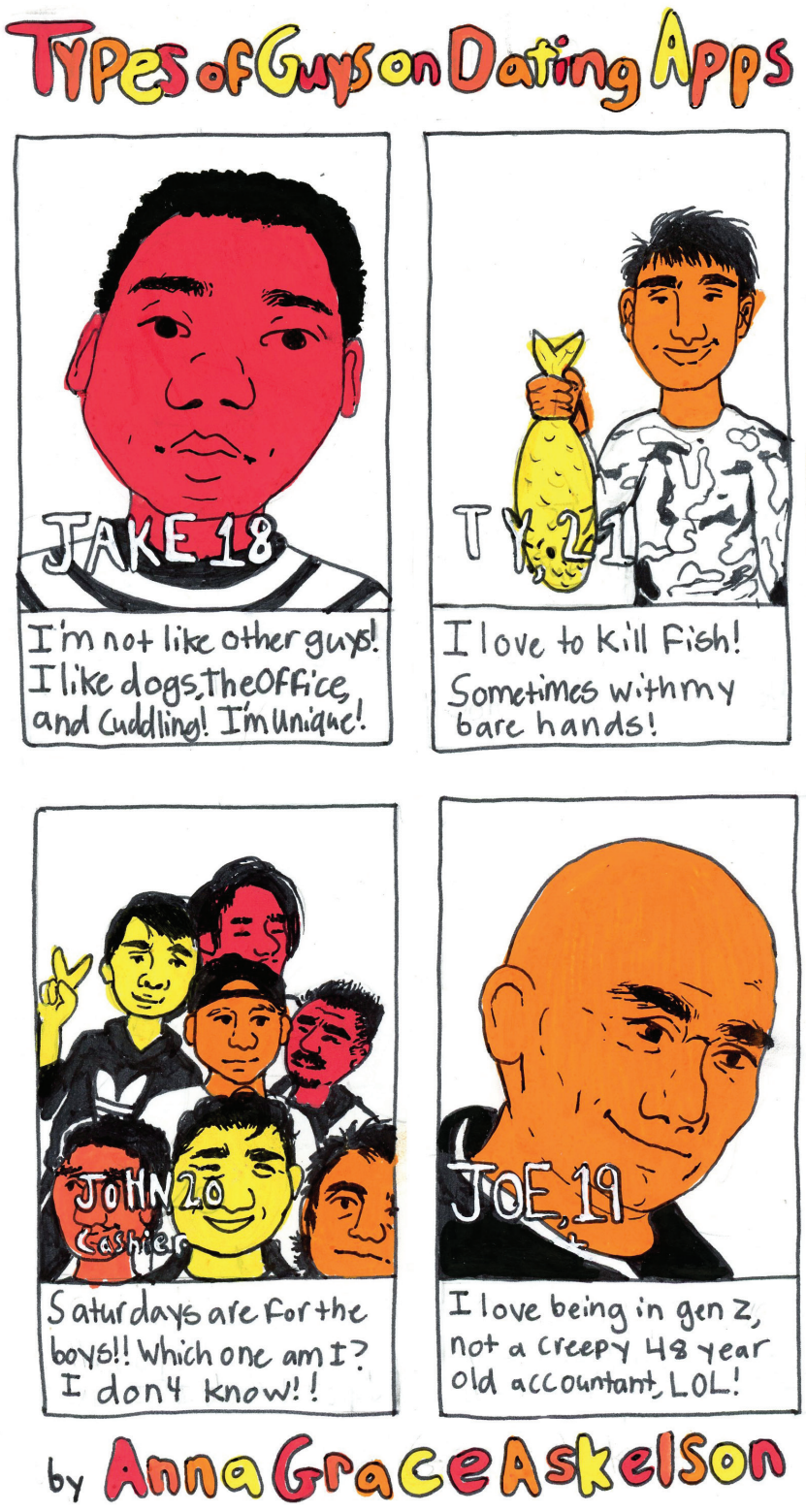
Aquarius ♒ You may feel that something is holding you back from being completely honest. Take this time to really focus on what it is you want or need.

Pisces ♓ If you've been wanting more recognition for the hard work you've been doing, now is the time to do something about that! Take any confidence you might feel this week and run with it.

Capricorn ♑ You've been working hard lately, and it may soon be paying off! Don't forget why you do what you do.

COMICS





Spotify PLAYLIST

By The ALABAMIAN STAFF

WORLD OF MUSIC

"Dommage"
- Bigflo et Oli

The phrase, "it's better to ask for forgiveness than for permission" is something that a lot of people say on a daily basis, some even live by it. This track explores that phrase as the song centers around the story of four people who could have done something, but didn't. The chorus, 'On a tous dit : "Ah c'est dommage, ah c'est dommage, c'est p't'être la dernière fois,'" reflects how you should just do it instead of having to say it's a pity you didn't, that it could be the last chance you have. The song then ends with "Vaut mieux vivre avec des remords qu'avec des regrets," it's better to live with remorse than with regrets.

"Again"
- Yui

This is the opening theme to Fullmetal Alchemist: Brotherhood, but it's so much more than that. Once the beat drops you immediately want to start rocking out – it sounds like something epic is about to happen.

"Hello, Shooting-star"
- Moumoon

This is one of my all-time favorite theme songs, in large part because I think it's a really good song period. Not only does it have a catchy chorus, the instrumentals are well put together as well. The best part of the song is the way that it matches up with the content of the show. No matter what the crime, the heroes will step up to save the day.

"Latin Simone (Que Pasa Contigo)"
- Gorillaz

This track is part of a dual song conversation. It focuses on a man trying to encourage and uplift his friend. The speaker's friend is always downtrodden despite everything going well. It's somber and melancholic tone reflects this and the end of the track is left ambiguous as to whether or not the friend will listen to his friend's advice.

"Le Festin"
- Camille

Yes, this is the song from Ratatouille. As soon as you turn this song on, the sweet melody transports you to a sunny afternoon bicycling to a bakery in Paris. Nothing puts me in a good mood as instantly as this song does. From the beautiful instrumentation to the melodic background singers, this song is as sweet and delectable as the freshest pain au chocolat.

"Sin Pijama"
- Becky G and Natti Natasha

The first time I ever heard this song was after getting in a cab leaving the Miami Airport. The cab driver asked all the women in the cab if they had boyfriends and then said he had to play us this song, and proceeded to pull up the music video and had us watch it with him while he was driving. It was not safe, and was very creepy, but at the end of the day I had a new song that I loved.

The Alabamian

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WEDNESDAY, March 4, 2020

UM's 'It's About Family Campaign' raises over $36 million

By CALEB JONES, News editor



Members of the UM board of trustees and others celebrating the $36 million dollars raised in the 'It's About Family Campaign.'

On Feb. 7 the University of Montevallo announced that it had raised over $36 million through the It's About Family Campaign.

Organized in 2012 through the leadership of President John W. Stewart III, the Board of Trustees and alumni volunteers the progress of the capital campaign has almost doubled its original goal of $20 million by 2019, which it reached in only five years.

"The success of the campaign in surpassing our goal exemplifies the passion our alumni and friends have for the current University of Montevallo students" stated Scott Dillard, the Vice President of Advancement and External Affairs.

So far, the campaign has supported construction of the Center for the Arts, the Stephens College of Business, Strong Hall, the 3-D Art Building and renovations of several athletics facilities.

According Jacob Gordon, the Director of Annual Giving and Donor Engagement in University Advancement, the campaign has also been able to create more than 113 new scholarship funds, with more than $7 million in funding raised towards scholarships.

The campaign moves in five directions which it lays out as the five 'campaign priorities': Scholarships and the Student Experience; Faculty, Coach and Staff Development; Facilities for Learning, Competing, and Living; Building Annual Giving; and the Traditions Fund.

Over 5,000 tulips sold in first day of festival

By ARIEL HALL, Lifestyles editor



Patsy Pilgreen, a local resident, finished gathering her tulips.

Over a thousand people took home more than 5,000 tulips on Saturday, Feb. 22.

Located between Montevallo and Alabaster, the American Village has numerous historical based programs and offers various activities such as Games on the Green and 15-minute sketches about colonial life. It is also home to Alabama's only you-pick tulip festival.

Festival of Tulips began in 2017 when American Village CEO Tom Walker was tasked with coming up with an idea to bring in more visitors throughout the spring season.

According to Melanie Poole, the director of marketing and communications at American Village, Walker "thought that the blooming flowers would complement the campus of historically-inspired buildings."

During a visit in Virginia, Walker went to Burnside Farms' pick-your-own-tulips farm. He then worked with them to help recreate the idea at American Village. The festival was also inspired by the Dutch tulip festival in Amsterdam.

Since its inception, the festival has brought in upwards of 4,000 visitors to the American Village. Some in attendance to the festival were locals but may not have visited the American Village otherwise.

"Today was such a beautiful day. This festival was such a great way to start spring," said Audrey Scott, a resident of Hoover, said.

With several varieties of tulips to choose from, visitors were able to take home bunches of blooms.

People who attended the festival were also welcome to participate in the American Village's daily programming, titled "The Liberty Experience," which educated them on the history of the nation. The campus also holds Randall Museum and National Veterans shrine. "The Liberty Experience" is open to the public Monday through Friday between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

According to the American Village website The festival will run until the flowers are no longer in bloom. Weekday admission is $10 for adults, $9 for seniors and youth and free for veterans, active military and children under 4. Weekend admission is $5.

Artists highlight US Cuba divide

By ANNA GRACE ASKELSON

Azul/Blue is a collaborative art show that highlights the closeness of Cuba and the US by showing collaborations between 32 different artists from both countries that all prominently feature the color blue.

The show first opened in Havana, Cuba. Blue is curated by Karen Graffeo, a professor of Art at Montevallo and will be featured in The Gallery at Bloch Hall until March 6.

Graffeo gave a talk on Feb. 20 about the show's concept, art and creation. The idea behind the show is to provide a unifying link between the countries of Cuba and the United States through art.

"What we have here is a spiritual passport that allows us to touch both shores," said Graffeo.

This message of connection is the intent behind the show in its entirety. The theme of blue light that ties the exhibit together represents the 90 miles of "the blue blue sky and the water [that] connect both shores," as Graffeo put it.

Graffeo shared that the theme of the blue throughout the showcase originated from a quote by writer Rebecca Solnit.

"This light that does not touch us [referring to blue light], does not travel the whole distance," noted Graffeo. "The light that gets lost, gives us the beauty of the world, so much of which is in the color blue."

According to Graffeo, this show is intrinsically linked to politics and cannot be seen without understanding the strained state of Cuban-American relations. The show, essentially a trade of art, is a cry to stop the trade embargo that has pushed our countries apart for so long.

"This exhibition is a radiant call of all of you to ask for a world where… our souls [can] find a common ground," said Graffeo.

Because of this political strain, the art show was not put together easily, and Graffeo elaborated on her difficulties in the gallery talk. She not only had issues with customs and a difficult car accident, but also had problems providing Cuban artists with supplies. Graffeo experienced huge difficulty on her journey to curate the show.

"I don't think I've ever been so happy to see a project realized," Graffeo said, concluding her talk.

When Michael Willett, assistant professor of art, was asked what he found interesting about the show, he noted the show's cultural diversity, the juxtaposition of Cuba and America, range of media, and the "thin conceptual thread of blue" that connects the pieces in the collection.

This show serves as a part of Montevallo's upcoming interdisciplinary colloquium, Blue Nature. The colloquium is a free series of talks that brings together research and art provoked by the color blue.

These talks are from both Montevallo professors and visiting professors and will cover topics as wide ranging as zoology, folk history, Hans Christian Anderson's "The Little Mermaid," Medieval poetry and modern painting.

The next part of the colloquium featuring Azul/Blue will be an Artists' talk and reception from Susan Schler-Luss and Tatico Cuban on Thursday, March 5 at 5 p.m. in The Gallery at Bloch Hall.

Students can still view the show in The Gallery at Bloch hall from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday until March 6.



Painted and embroidered photograph titled Ayelala by Natalia Bolivar and Karen Gaffeo

SGA RECAP

By HARRISON NEVILLE, SGA columnist



Harrison Neville, SGA Columnist

The SGA Senate passed Resolution 001, which was stated that SGA believed that hand sanitizers should be installed in the bottom of Davis. The meeting after the Resolution was passed, SGA President, Olivia Eldridge, reported that she'd received news that the hand sanitizer stations would be installed in Davis.

In committee reports, the Academic Affairs Committee is still working to get their technology bill finished.

The Governmental Affairs Committee said that they were working on a Bill to extend SAC hours.

Bill: 1920-B-037 was introduced to the floor. The bill was submitted by Commuter Senator Alexis Martinez and Senior Senator Brianna Day. If passed, the bill would allot $500 to the Non-Profit Studies 420 class.

According to the bill, "Every year the NPS 420 class plans and executes the Warrior Challenge to raise money for the Arc of Shelby County."

This year, the class is completing their event alongside Montevallo's Love Montevallo Day on March 14. As part of this, the NPS 420 class is putting on a color run, and would use the funds given to them by SGA to buy water bottles and color powder, with half the funds going to water bottles and half to color powder.

The SGA voted to table the bill until next week.

The deadline to put in an application for SGA is March 6. The debate for SGA will occur March 11.

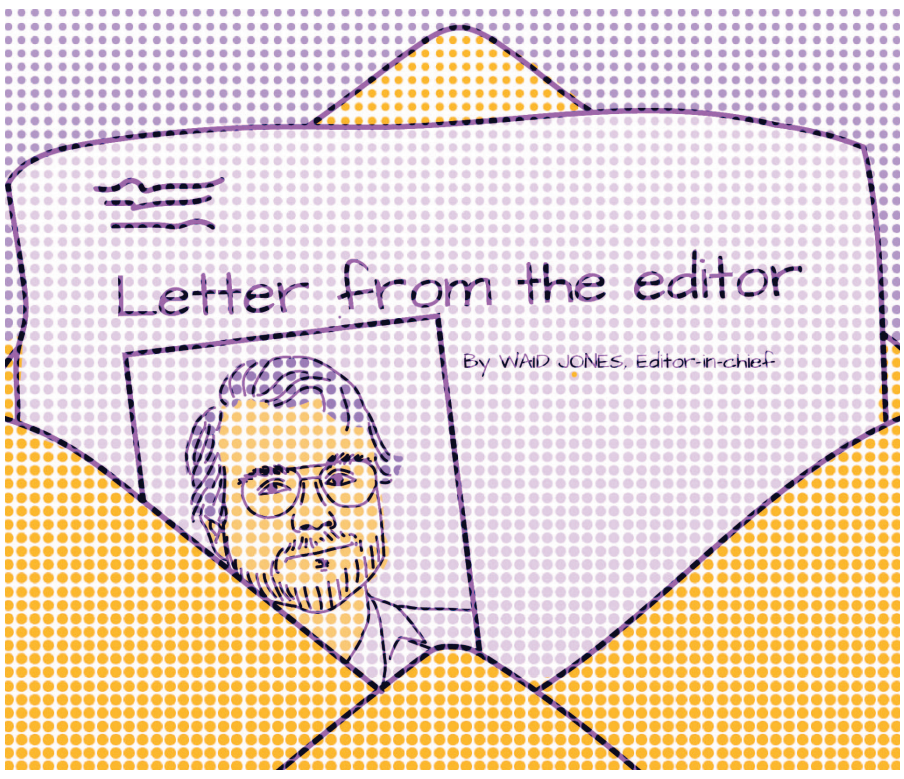
The SGA will host a blood drive March 17-18.

The Big Event will be April 4.

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I really don't know anything. Part of that is because the end of the year is a confusing time. We're coming up on the end of the year. There are just a few weeks left in the semester and spring break is quickly approaching. I don't know about you, but this makes me anxious.

The end of the school year is always a strange time of year. Some people are getting ready to graduate and go to another school, others are getting ready for the summer and planning out their few savored moments of break.

It's hard to really wrap my head around the changes that are coming, both for myself and others involved in the newspaper.

Next year will be the first time in three years that I haven't been involved in The Alabamian or UM. It's an alien concept to me at this point and so much of the University and the newspaper have become accepted norms in my daily life. The dynamic of graduating from college is almost as drastic and life altering as leaving for college was in the first place -- it's uncharted territory.

But, looking back, each year always feels like uncharted territory. As we move forward, we are always adding things and challenges to our daily lives that we would have at one point felt were foreign to us. The things that we accept as commonplace change throughout our lives. At one point the thought of writing a one-page paper felt daunting, but now five pages often feel incredibly short. The thought of creating a works cited or bibliography also had that same strange feeling at one point.

The thing I do most often now once filled me with fear. The idea of editing a newspaper and taking on that task was the farthest from anything I had ever thought that I would do. I started as an English major at UM, but quickly changed to political science, so never in the beginning of my time at UM would I have thought that I would be here.

That is why as we all begin to make plans for our futures and the summer months, I highly recommend that you use this time to explore things outside of your comfort zone.

Try to reexamine the things that have become commonplace to you and think if that's a good or bad thing. Is stressing and procrastinating your best option or is there something that you can do over the next few weeks to make a change and reset so that finals week isn't going to be as rough?

Or, as you make plans for summer internships or break you might consider looking outside of your major and comfort zone for something that would add to how much you enjoy your time off. We often forget that there is life outside of college and classes, that adventures can be had on your own. Discovering something new and interesting is always beneficial.

A few months ago, I went on a quest to find the best hamburger that I could, while I don't think I'll ever complete that journey, I've eaten some pretty amazing things. The most important part though is that the search has pushed me out of my comfort zone, challenged my likes and dislikes and has allowed me to enjoy a lot of amazing food that I wouldn't have before.

But along with that challenge I try to constantly look at the things that I'm doing to really figure out if it's the best way to do it. Because of this, I changed my calendar a few years ago and it has drastically increased my productivity since then. I love to do list apps and think they have also helped out with my ability to remember things. Without looking for solutions to my biggest problems – forgetting things and procrastinating – I probably never would have made these changes.

So, I encourage you to do the same and start now. Spring reak is only a couple of weeks away and can really help you reset if you focus on yourself. Realize that it's a time that you can step out of your comfort zone. Then remember that you can carry that idea into the rest of the semester and into the summer.

No shame in bad taste: bring on the mediocrity

By ANNA GRACE ASKELSON

I love kitschy, tacky, no-good awful things. I mean, really awful.

My favorite movies are "so-bad-they're-good" movies, but I have an issue where I don't see the bad. Some people, when they watch a movie that has cheesy dialogue, cringy characters and bad acting feel the urge to run far away. I simply I decide that I have a new favorite movie.

My current favorite movie is Tim Burton's Batman Returns, which is a grotesque and cartoonish story. It features a 50-year-old Christopher Walken dressed p to look 70, Michelle Pffeifer playing Catwoman as a literal cat, tongue grooming and all, and a batsuit with a neck that's so stiff, Micheal Keaton can't turn his head the whole movie.

I love it.

My love of awful stuff doesn't stay confined to my favorite movies, it spreads into fashion, literature and my travel bucket list.

If you've seen me before, there's about a 90% chance that I was dressed somewhat like a clown. I deeply adore clashing patterns and bright colors. Looking good is a secondary concern when I get dressed, a concern that is placed directly underneath looking as close to Ms. Frizzle as humanly possible. Essentially, I want to stop traffic when I step out.

Often, when I go to a bookstore, instead of looking for an actually good book, I try and find the mass market sci-fi paperback with the worst looking cover. I like to read sci-fi, but I think I might enjoy judging the cover art even more.

My YouTube watch history has recently been dominated by this channel, A Pretty Cool Hotel Tour, which is about a husband and wife who tour and review honeymoon hotels across America. Honeymoon hotels are essentially resorts made for couples to ignore the rest of the world and focus on each other, often in themed rooms. Heart-shaped bathtubs, mint-green carpet and fake indoor ice-skating rinks are all par for the course when it comes to honeymoon hotels.

Once again, I love it!

I acknowledge that critically acclaimed movies and books with well designed covers are great. I like a ton of them! I know that my chances of getting bed bugs from a hotel with a champagne glass shaped bathtub is much greater than from a Holiday Inn, but I still think its neat.

The first reaction when I admit all of these facts about my interests to people is horror and disgust. I understand and empathize with this, so I began to ask myself, why do I like everything to be just a little tacky?

I think I've realized that what all of these things have in common is people making things with a large amount of passion and no pretension or apathy. All of these things came from places without concern for profit or high-art, they simply come from people who love to love things and had the opportunity to make creations that show that love.

When the makers of Samurai Cop made it, they didn't worry about things like "good film-making" or "realistic dialogue," all they thought about was how sick it would be to have a super ripped guy who is not simply a samurai or a cop, but both.

This approach is so free of commercialism and risk minimization that the things created have full freedom to be incredibly good or incredibly awful. Moments of pure beauty can shine through in ways that they simply never can in traditionally good media.

The designer of a honeymoon hotel did not focus on maximizing profit, like a normal hotel designer would, they focused on maximizing a joyful experience.

Creators who allow themselves to focus purely on passion and not worry about failing create the best products. Even if they end up being quirky, tacky and distasteful they are full of love and creative joy.

To me, that makes them better than every Academy Award winner combined.

Submit your questions to *alabamian@montevallo.edu* for a chance to be featured in our next issue!

Why I decided to swipe left on Tinder

By ARIEL HALL, Lifestyles Editor

For someone who has been out of the dating game for a couple of years, I thought that dating apps would open me up to people that I otherwise would've never known or enjoyed the presence of. I first thought that dating apps were the answer.

Boy was I wrong.

I initially downloaded Tinder my first semester of college when a friend of mine was going through a breakup and she downloaded it. At first, I was curious to see what it had to offer, but in retrospect, I wish I would've kept that door closed.

When I got onto Tinder, all I could do was laugh what people would put in their profile. At this point, there were certain characteristics that if present automatically call for a left swipe.

For those who are "only there for a good time" or just want someone to watch "The Office" with them, I find often lack depth in personality. That sounds harsh, but it's all I can say when I get the worst, and sometimes offensive, pickup lines and dead-end conversations from those people.

If you are able to superlike someone, you should also be able to super dislike someone. The amount of times that I've heard "I just wanna know if I can 'Kiss the Girl'" makes me want to scream.

Tinder isn't even the only place that this happens; I've also tried Bumble and other dating apps, but they haven't turned out well either.

Granted, in the end, I have no real expectations for what dating apps have to offer. Though one my closest friends has met her girlfriend on Tinder and is very happy with her, I just can't help but think to myself that my expectations are far too high.

My parents came together in a very romantic-comedy sense; my mom was dating a friend of my dad's in college when they first met, and right then, my dad told his friend that he was going to one day marry her. Sweet right? Yes, I know. As much as I love my parents, I do resent them just the slightest bit for setting up some unrealistic expectations for me. I mean, what kind of expectations did they think I'd have when I was named after a Disney character?

One of the only things that Tinder and dating apps have really taught me is that sometimes, it's better to wait.

Recently, I was talking to a dear friend of mine, who is probably going to end up getting married within the next year. She met her serious boyfriend in a happenstance way and sometimes, that's just how the pieces fall into place.

For the longest time, I was so convinced that all I needed to do was focus on my career and the rest would fall into place. At the end of the day, I'm here to get my degree and eventually a job.

Along these lines, recently, I've come to also realize that I'm worth the wait. I don't think that I have to settle for someone or something that isn't right for me or doesn't make me happy, whether it's a relationship or a job or whatever the case.

My best friend told me a while ago that I'd always be the settler and whoever I was with would always be the reacher. It boosted my confidence in such an expected way and it made me realize that happiness and love really is out there for everyone, even those who sent me the worst pickup lines.

Even without the Internet involved, dating is so complicated, especially at 20 years old and trying to figure out my own life. How am I supposed to figure that out with someone else? I always feel like I'll do the wrong thing; it feels like I'm trying to untangle a bowl of cooked spaghetti.

If I have to wait to find the right person, even if it's after I graduate college, does it really matter how long the wait is? Isn't the wait supposed to make the experience with that person worth it?

I'm honestly okay with the wait. I might feel like I'm missing out with the cute couple things, but I have full confidence that I don't need a partner to validate my existence. I'm strong all on my own and until I find the right person, that'll just have to do.

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Junior league discusses human trafficking at town hall

By HARRISON NEVILLE, Copy Editor

The Feb. 26 Town Hall saw the return of the Junior League of Birmingham. This time, the Chair of the Anti-Human Trafficking Committee, Julia Meyers, came to give a presentation to attendees.

The Anti-Human Trafficking Committee has a total of 13 members, and is now on its third year of existence. The Committee works to improve awareness of human trafficking and increase education on how to spot and handle situations involving human trafficking.

"Our niche is getting out into the community and spreading awareness," said Meyers.

For Meyers, this fight against human trafficking is personal. Her brother was a personal defendant who had many clients who were prostitutes stuck in the human trafficking industry. He wanted to help all of the girls he'd see, and after he passed away Meyers made it her mission to try and combat human trafficking.

In the state of Alabama, it is illegal for a minor to exchange their body for anything, because they are below the age of consent. This means any case of a minor trading their body for a commodity of any sort is considered trafficking.

If the individual is over the age of 19, then in order for it to be considered trafficking and not prostitution, it must be proved that there was either force, fraud or coercion.

One of the things that Meyers listed as a success was having Birmingham declare itself a trafficking free zone, which means that it will work to give all of its employees training to help combat trafficking and that there is a zero-tolerance policy for purchasing sex at work.

"Three p.m. is the most common hour for purchasing sex," said Meyers.

This means that it is often happening at work, on company computers during work hours.

One of the points that Meyers repeatedly made was just how lucrative the trafficking industry was, claiming that there were estimates based off online sites for soliciting sex that put the number at around $110 million annually in the Birmingham area.

"When you think about it, you can only sell drugs once, you can only sell guns once, but you can sell a human being over and over again," said Meyers.

Meyers said that according to Abolition Now, one third of high frequency sex buyers are married and half of that group have children under the age of 18.

Meyers also stated that the average age that victims wind up being trafficked is 15 or 17 years old. A stereotype that Meyers took a moment to break was that many of those trafficked were being brought in from outside of the country; 80 to 90% of victims are U.S. citizens.

The average lifespan of someone in the sex trafficking trade as a victim is seven years. Meyers pointed out that this meant that a girl who went in at the age of 15 would probably be dead by her 22nd birthday. The most common reason for these deaths is suicide.

In explaining how sex traffickers roped in their victims, Meyers emphasized the usage of social media as a tool for recruitment.

"They start up a conversation online and they recruit them in," she said.

There were several codes and symbols that Meyers identified on social media. Some examples would be how five moneybags and a rose would indicate that it would cost $500 to have sex with someone, or how keywords like young, fresh and new could be used as code to say that someone was a virgin.

Another thing that Meyers went over was the reasons why anyone would stay in "the life." The reasons could range from threatening the victim's family or friends, or playing on their emotions to make them think they needed to stay.

She explained that sex traffickers will often make the victim dependent upon them by taking away their money, or making them think that they have nowhere else to go because no one else will want them after what they've done.

Other tactics they might employ include forcing the victim to commit a crime so that they have something to hold over their head, or making them doubt their own sanity and capability on their own by gaslighting and keeping them sleep deprived.

As part of the presentation, Meyers showed another video that demonstrated the process of a teen who was brought into the sex trade. She then asked the audience to point out some of the warning signs that they noticed.

Some of the warning signs that Meyers pointed out were to listen to keywords like bottom bitch, daddy and the life, someone having multiple computers or cellphones, impractical clothing for the weather, a minor out with someone during school hours or a young person being demeaned during school hours. She also warned that sex traffickers will use tattoos, usually on the neck, to brand their victims as their property.

Meyers also discussed how people who see things that could potentially be trafficking should respond. She said that it was important not to attempt to confront or rescue the victim, because that could endanger them or their loved ones. Instead, people who suspect trafficking should remember as many details as possible and call the police.

The ultimate goal of the Junior League of Birmingham's Anti-Trafficking Committee is to combat sex trafficking by cutting out the demand for trafficking. It is the belief of the committee that educating individuals will help in this. Another way is to attack the purchasers of sex.

According to Meyers, Alabama House Representative Merika Coleman is currently working on legislation that would cause the mugshots of the men who are caught purchasing sex to be published, the idea being that it would help discourage the purchasing of sex.

2020 Arbor Day

By WESLEY HYDE



Arbor day activity, "put a pin on your favorite green space!"

Arbor Day is a day about the planting, and preservation of trees. In its 140 plus years Arbor Day has seen the planting of millions of trees.

Though Arbor Day as a federal holiday isn't until April 24, the Arbor and Beautification board hosted an Arbor Day celebration in Montevallo's recycling center on Feb. 29.

The celebration was held inside the recycling center's main building. There were booths belonging to various groups based in Montevallo focusing on the community and its environment.

Hershel Hale, a long-time supporter and board member, shared that this was the sixteenth official celebration, and that this is the first year the event has been held in the recycling center.

Groups attending included the U.S. Forestry Services, National Forestry of Alabama, Montevallo's Civitan Club, Montevallo's Master Gardener Volunteer Program and UM's Environmental Studies had booths presents as well.

As this was an Arbor Day event, the booth that took up the most space belonged to Montevallo's Arbor and Beautification board. The booth stretched across the main room the event and was held in was covered with saplings all free for the taking from visitors.

Nine various tree species were distributed: flowering dogwoods one with white blooms and one with red, southern red birch, river birch, pignut hickory, white oak, pin oak, red maple, and pecan tree seedlings.

Kathy Adams who was manning the booth said that the board had roughly 2,700 seedlings they had received from a company in Florida, and the seedlings that don't get passed out to visitors will be planted somewhere in the community.

Alongside the booths distributing saplings the big push to help give out more trees was the raffle. The raffle was made up from interested attendees looking for larger more developed trees. The trees given away in the raffle were provided by Green Valley Nursery, Alabama Power and Asplundh Tree Expert Company.

The National Forestry of Alabama booth was being manned by forester Sheila Holifield. Along with passing out fliers and brochures for Alabama's national forests, Holifield said her primary goal for the event was to help citizens find information on how to properly plant their trees.

She stated that there had already been local property owners asking how to set their land up for their new tree. She also said that Montevallo's event was also one of the largest in the area and that the Forest Services needed to have a presence. Holifield also had a large box on the table containing roughly 500 longleaf pine saplings, Alabama's state tree.

UM had a presence at Arbor Day with its booths headed by Sustainability and Environmental Studies. They had three booths, one dedicated to handing out flyers about the University's environmental programs such as the Environmental Club, the Green Fund and Sustainability and Campus Tree Committee.

The second booth was an informational booth on recycling, showing the various plastics that can and can't be recycled, stating the main reason they decided this would be their focus is because the recycling plant has recently had a contamination rate of 50%. The reason being, products that can't be recycled such as clear coat hangers and foam cups are being mixed in with the proper plastics.

The other booth was part of the Sustainability program headed by Olivia Barone; they invited guests to give feedback about the parks and which one they particularly enjoyed. The program's table had a display that had a rough map showing green spaces in Montevallo. These green spaces are places labeled as protected environmental areas primarily parks, this map was also covered with pins. Each pen placed on the map was by visitor representing the green space they enjoyed engaging with the most, Orr Park had a large lead over most of the others.

Another group present at the event was the Alabama Master Gardener Volunteer program, the program started over 25 years ago, is dedicated to sharing their knowledge on gardening. The booth was set up to help spread knowledge of their classes.

A more community-oriented group that was at the Arbor Day celebration was the Montevallo Civitan Club, a group dedicated to community service and helping those with developmental disabilities. The club had set up a stand selling Vidalia onions, which would be used as donations for research on developmental disabilities.

Those who helped out at the event described it as a success, with the event between at 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. there had been over 100 visitors from all over the area from towns such as Alabaster, Huntsville, Shelby and Jemison.

WOC in higher Ed

By BRI BALASKY



Dr. Lolita Kincade

Dr. Lolita Kincade, assistant professor of family and consumer sciences, addressed the issue of discrimination in the workplace with her presentation, "Intersections of Race and Gender: A Social-Ecological Model of Support for Women of Color in Higher Education." This discussion took place in Carmichael Library on Thursday, Feb. 20 beginning at noon and lasting about an hour.

Kincade began the conversation by recalling how her father, a former pastor, would ask members of the church to engage with the person beside them, not only to break the ice but to create a sense of connection between strangers. She then proceeded to ask each member of her audience to high five the person beside them and say, "You got this girl!"

After everyone had gotten their daily dose of encouragement and the ice had been sufficiently broken, Kincade began by saying that the goal of this presentation was not just to address the discrimination against women of color in the workplace, but also to encourage collaboration and connection rather than competition, hoping to "build bridges between women."

She stated her belief that these issues should not be overlooked or taken lightly as this discrimination is not the sole problem, but the overlap of multiple issues that are often left unresolved or unrecognized.

"There is no such thing as a single-issue struggle because we do not live single issue lives," she said, quoting Audre Lorde.

She made a direct reference to Kimberle Crenshaw's use of the term intersectionality. Intersectionality refers to the interconnected nature of social categorization given to individuals and groups of different backgrounds that face disadvantage because of these classifications. She stressed heavily that any individual experiencing intersectionality "cannot be collapsed into a singular identity."

The concept being that you're not just a person of color, you're also a woman, and vice versa. These issues go hand in hand, creating more boundaries that make women of color a target for gendered racism.

Her desire to analyze and study the core of this issue led her to conduct a survey consulting black and southeast Asian women working in higher education. She asked them to describe their experiences on the intersection of race and gender.

Many of the women felt they were only there to, "meet the diversity quota," and that they had to, "work harder to prove they belong." Many of them felt that being a woman of color put them "under a negative microscope or left them unseen."

"Macro and micro aggressions are a usual part of my day. We are the last in the hierarchy. It's unwritten but everyone knows it," said some women when describing their interactions with coworkers.

Information in hand, Kincade decided to come up with solutions for every level of support. The five levels of support she introduced began with the individual, leading to interpersonal, organizational, communal, and ended with societal and public policy.

On an individual level she highly encouraged mindfulness, meditation, and managing the amount of time spent at work. Making time for self-reflection and introspection is an essential step in taking back the power in their identity.

On an interpersonal level, she recommended increasing awareness to coworkers who may not struggle with these issues and creating a safe space within the workplace. Educating those who may not be aware of the severity could greatly decrease the tolerance for this kind of behavior.

Establishing that safe space would also create a less cold and isolating environment. In terms of community, she stressed peer mentoring and gathering by region, via empowerment seminars. This would not only increase awareness, but extend that network of support for women of color in smaller areas.

Hiring people of color for greater representation, addressing wage inequity issues, and professional training to encourage cultural humility and eliminating unconscious bias are all crucial steps that must be taken to fight these issues. In terms of societal and public policy, it is imperative that we take affirmative action to ensure equal employment opportunity and support women of color in politics.

Kincade's closing statement was that the responsibility to bring attention to gendered racism is held not only by women of color.

"Middle and upper-class women defined mainstream feminism," Kincade stressed.

"Learning about and recognizing privilege as well as utilizing your voice and resources to advocate for people who aren't able to advocate for themselves. We are doing a disservice to not address it," she said. "We cannot silence victims. We cannot silence people at the intersection of race and gender. We must create the dialogue."

Purple Side judges comments



Purple side cast dancing in tavern scene.

Judge 1

First, I would like to congratulate both the Gold and Purple teams for their extraordinary work. Writing and producing an original musical is a challenge of which few are capable. That college students – many of whom are not theatre or music majors – can do so with such success is a testament to their tenacity and love for the process. I was very impressed with both shows.

The Purple side's musical, "Witchful Thinking: One Hex of a Musical" (etc.), opened on a very different world, but explored a similar central theme: "different" doesn't mean "bad." A variety of magical creatures filled the stage for a large opening number that immediately established the show's setting as being in a different world from our own. Visually, the set, costumes, and lighting in this show were very effective. The set and lighting in particular were on a slightly higher caliber than that of the Gold team – they were coherent and created some beautiful stage pictures. Two scenic moments that stood out for me were the ship and the water (cleverly created with blue sheets) and the cave in the final scene. The lighting provided color and mood appropriate to the fantasy genre of the show.

While "Witchful Thinking" was clearly inspired by shows like Frozen and Shrek, the storyline was still original. It was a novel take on the central conflict of stepmother and stepdaughter. Karly Wilmore and Annslyn Pilkington as Clara and the Queen, respectively, both had excellent voices and fully formed characters. Another standout in this show was Josh Giles as Clara's faithful friend and business partner. Giles's voice and stage presence were exciting to watch. James Bailey as the awkward, trying-so-hard-to-improve-himself royal guard, Finch, was also delightful.

But what impressed me the most about "Witchful Thinking" was its script and score. All of the writers seemed to understand how musicals should be structured, with songs and reprises coming in at just the right moments. The songs were tuneful and memorable. I particularly enjoyed Clara and the Queen's duet, "I Tried" and its effective reprise. The first iteration showed the complicated relationship between the two, but the reprise turned the tables, revealing the dangerous conflict. The script was also funny in all the right places and moving when it needed to be.

"Witchful Thinking" edged out "The Golden Days" primarily because its elements were more cohesive and just slightly more sophisticated. But I want to say again that both the Gold and Purple teams have so much to be proud of and celebrate. There was no question in my mind that both sides worked well together and enjoyed what they created. They both brought a memorable evening of musical theatre. To me, there is nothing better in the world.



Three purple side leads traveling to the cave by boat, Viva Pattillo.

Judge 2

This production was ENGAGING FROM THE BEGINNING TO END. Thank you for all your hard work, time and dedication you gave to this production, Purple team. This reminded me of if Into the Woods was merged with Frozen. It was clear that everyone on this team put in 100% and was extremely collaborative. This show ARTISTICALLY was a SUCCESS! Please note: I am only one observer coming in to give you feedback. I do not know anything about your process and the journey to your performance. I sincerely hope these thoughts will enrich your lives and you will celebrate your success and improve upon what you have strongly built.

This SCRIPT was VERY CREATIVE and highly entertaining. The three characters of Clara, Troll and Finch were smartly written. There is one major challenge. The first scene/song needs to be re-visited. Characters need to be introduced in either song or script clearly, so the audience knows whom we are following and why. This idea can be done in a variety of ways from what Fiddler on the Roof does in the song "Tradition" or a simple scripted scene. I spent a good deal of time trying to figure out what was going on for a bit. LYRICS AND SCORE were FANTASTIC. Amazing work, Thomas Frost and Elicia Freeman. I was HIGHLY IMPRESSED with your sense of variation, rhythm, meter and imaginative lyrics. I was humming "do it for the money" the next day.

Stage pictures were clear. However, the transitions between songs and script were very awkward at times so thing could definitely be rehearsed and developed. CASTING was PERFECT. The first image was excellent. Slowing down the sword fighting in the background while others were in dialogue might have been effective and improve focus. Choreography was good. I thought the movement chosen was effective for the cast. ACTING was STRONG. Stand out performances were Karly Wilmore, Josh Giles and James Bailey. Karly always pursued her intentions honestly and with high stakes. One major note for the entire cast: vocal clarity and diction throughout could have been improved. Some of this was due to the microphones but never rely on technology. Everyone had clearly defined characters and was consistent throughout. SINGING was EXCELLENT. Annslyn Pilkington's voice is incredible and had a standout performance. Healthy belting-yeah! Dancing was appropriate and varied. There were moments that just needed a bit more time to flesh out for the cast to be effectively uniform. The ORCHESTRA was BALANCED. All instrumentalists did an effective job. It was fun to see an actor on stage (well done, Lavaun Lloyd Thompson) as well play trumpet.

The DESIGN elements were CREATIVE and VISUALLY STUNNING. Costumes were original; character based and fit the actors well. Really enjoyed the addition of wigs for the creatures and fantastical make-up. Troll looked perfect. Cameron Wasner and Beth Vaughan: BRAVO! From the revolving scenery piece to the cave, the set pieces were versatile and creative. Props fit the theme and setting. LIGHTING set mood and was varied in color choices and intensity. All of the design elements worked really well together. The running of the show was VERY SMOOTH.

BRAVO! Purple team on a lovely night of theatre. Thank you for all of your hard work on this production and for coming together and creating this fantastical story. It was a pleasure to see it and I thank you for sharing it.

Judge 3

Wow. All I can say is wow. I had heard about this event but didn't realize the full extent until I was in attendance. By far one of the best college traditions I've heard of. Forget sports, forget Greek life…..the University of Montevallo has College Night.

Each and every one of your students should be extremely proud of the tradition they are passing down. You feel the spirit and pride in what they do the minute you step into the auditorium. The camaraderie for each group is heartfelt and sincere and took me back to my college days of friendships still loyal to this day. Thank you for that.

These shows are a monumental task. As a musical director/conductor myself, I know the amount of work that goes into composing the music, arranging it, teaching the actors, and working with the orchestra. So, kudos to everyone involved on the creative teams.

Overture was very good, musicians played well and sounded full most of the time. There was only one section when just a few reeds played and sound was a bit thin.

Sound was better after about 5 minutes. (Sound didn't factor into the rating).

"Do It for the Money" great song and the ranges were excellent.

From the very top, the production values jumped right out at us. The show had a visually beautiful design and lighting provided real emotions for the scenes.

The lighting and silhouettes gave a polished look to the overall production.

Loved the boat design. Would have liked the lighting in that scene to be more isolated on the boat itself. Maybe undulating the waves slowly to give movement to the scene?

This show had a higher sophisticated feel to it.

The offstage singers were well balanced and I liked the dramatic effects of the sound.

All or most of the songs were in a minor key which gave it a historical element.

The fight choreography was well done and safe!

Continue to work on the diction, especially in the opening number. It needs to drive the energy through to the end. The vowels are the emotion of the music but the consonants get us what we want. So, punching them more aggressively would offer a greater want.

I thought the direction of the tavern scene could have pushed forward a bit more which could have given it more energy as well.

There could have been more scene change music. Perhaps adding a tag of the previous song played at a different pace. It's hard for an audience to sit through silence when things move onstage. Should be times to fade when lights come up in scene.

In the tavern set design, there was a piano. I was confused as I waited for someone to play it (fake or real). It's there so why not put it to use? People always mingle around the piano player!

Most ranges were appropriate except for a few places. First one was the queen's assistant – range was too low at times. Also, Finch's solo was too low for him. Just a few intervals higher may have provided a more energetic feel.

Scene with the sword fighting was choreographed nicely. I would have liked to have had the two fighting in front more isolated. The background movement was distracting.

PS. Highlight performance was given by Josh Giles. A great presence onstage and a terrific voice as well.

Congratulations to all.

Gold Side judges comments



Gold side cast posing at the end of the back to school number.

Judge 1

The Gold side's musical, "The Golden Days," started off with a burst of energy that set the mood for the evening. The show seemed to be a mash-up of Grease and Hairspray, set in a high school coming to terms with its racial tensions. The choreography took front and center from the beginning – both the moves and the dancers were exciting. The immediate standout was Jonathan Everhart, playing the role of Charlie. (This shouldn't be a surprise as Everhart also choreographed the show.) The Gold team made a very smart choice in making dance the center of their show. When you have so many excellent dancers and such a talented choreographer, play to your strengths. The Gold side also had several very talented singers, led by Kensley Sandlin as Dottie. Sandlin and Everhart played their roles earnestly and naturally, making me believe that they were good friends onstage and off. Joy Hill and Adrianna Nix as Dottie's two best friends lent sass and support as Dottie broke away from her parents and domineering boyfriend, played with appropriate bravado by Lucas Younts.

Scenery and lighting for "The Golden Days" were relatively simple, but had some effective choices. Using one major set piece to establish place – a blackboard for school, a wall with menu board for the diner, a kitchen wall for Dottie's house – was a clever way to move quickly between locations. Lighting was mostly functional rather than dramatic, but one moment stood out: the beginning of the final scene at the school dance, where the cast was silhouetted against a rainbow cyc. It looked great and set the mood for the scene very effectively.

While the songs fit well into the story, I felt that they could have been more melodic and shown off the actors' vocal ranges more. All of the songs seemed to be in the same middle to low range, which did not make them very memorable. I did, however, like the song "Getting to Know You," at least the structure and message of it. I would recommend a different title, as that is a very famous title and the song never actually used those words. But as the central song in the show, it delivered the whole message: I'm not what you think I am on first sight – we have more in common than anyone expects. I enjoyed watching Dottie and Charlie find common ground and start to build trust with each other.

Overall, "The Golden Days" and its message were so appropriate for our current national conversation. The issues these characters faced in the 1970s have changed very little. I applaud the Gold team for taking on such a sensitive topic and handling it with grace and empathy.



Gold Side cast dancing during the back to school dance.

Judge 2

"Golden Days was a DELIGHT TO WATCH and so much FUN! I enjoyed this production from start to finish. It was upbeat, well cast and yet had a significant storyline included. It was very clear that this team worked very hard to put this production together and I commend everyone that was involved. It appeared as though the team from the endearing "thank you" from the top to the ending song was fully committed to this production and worked collaboratively. I was very IMPRESSED with how much was ACCOMPLISHED after hearing about how much time everyone was given to create this selection from the ground up. Please note: I am only an observer coming in and know nothing about the process. Please take this feedback as supporting what you did so well and perhaps learning about what could be improved upon for the future.

This script reminded me of Grease meets Hairspray. Script had very clear characters that were consistent throughout the entire production. Each character was crafted to serve the storyline. There were a few transitions between script and score that could be revised to tighten up and streamline. I would suggest contemplating cutting the parent's song. The actors performed it very well, I just think structure-wise it comes at a place in the script where you want the storyline to move quickly towards the dance. OPENING NUMBER was a HIGHLIGHT. The lyrics and the score fit well within style of show and very appropriate for vocal ranges. I think there more to find within the melody lines that could simply add variation to the songs for audience engagement. Lyrics were fitting, simple and appropriate.

DIRECTION WAS TERRIFIC. Stage pictures were very clear. Characters were PERFECTLY CAST and well defined. I really want to commend Ryan Rorick on his strong work. CHOREOGRAPHY was the highlight of the show. Jonathan Everhart BRAVO! I loved all of the choreography. A few times contemporary dance was mixed in with the 1970's decade that you might want to re-visit and revise. The dance off could be cleaned up a bit just for timing. This was a very strong cast and each person really played their role well. OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES included Kensley Sandlin and Jonathan Everheart. Everyone understood the storyline and dynamics of the characters. There were a few times between spoken lines and singing that acting was forgotten so just make sure to connect the thoughts going in and out of these moments. This is an advanced note so bravo to the cast.

SINGING WAS TERRIFIC. The only struggle was the microphones. I understand from years of directing and acting in musical theatre this always happens. The joy of technology. The cast really executed the choreography well and worked together as a group. A highlight was the exploding hands in the group that happened several times at toward the end. Opening number as I mentioned previously was a blast as well. The CAST had STRONG FOCUSED ENERGY. Uniformity in the dance off could be worked on. Orchestra balance at times was a challenge due to microphones. Volume and Dynamics could be worked on for improvement.

Costumes, Hair and Makeup were colorful, engaging and character driven. I would make sure everything is consistent for the time period. I might consider changing the last dress of Dottie to something a bit more youthful and free. The jackets for the athletes looked like they were from the 1950's where other costumes were completely aligned with the 1970's style. Scenic Design was appropriate for the period and style, however, It was visually flat. There may be more creative ways to improve upon the appearance adding depth and levels. Props: served the production, did not cause any distraction. Well done. The LIGHTING design was fairly basic but overall EFFECTIVE. There were a few odd moments that could have been enhanced with lighting. When the entire cast went to the stairs towards the end, lighting was odd. The colors chosen were appropriate to the period. I do think there was more to discover even though it was a basic light plot and your were limited in your options. RUNNING of the production was SMOOTH and effective. NICE WORK, Kimmi Lange

In conclusion, THANK YOU for an enjoyable night of theatre. Please celebrate all of the hard work you did and accomplished. It was a privilege to share this evening of theatre with you!

Judge 3

The overture took off with a lot of energy and the orchestration sounded full and they played with enthusiasm.

It was hard to hear the lyrics at times with all the audience cheering.

The scene changes were spot on. Quick, efficient, and the music was underscored very well and timed out perfectly. It drives me crazy when there are dead silences while the scene changes finish. Nice fades as well. Good job on that.

Actors moved with purpose during scene changes and where still in character which in my mind drove the show forward.

Choreography was outstanding. Creative, energetic, and fit was the storytelling was all about. Exceptional job.

Nice work in taking a risky subject and making it work. I felt the show was a cross between Hairspray and Grease.

That brings me to the next point. I was a bit confused as to what time period the show takes place in. At first, I thought 50's/60's, but some of the costumes threw me off. They gave a 70's vibe to me.

Musical styles were varied and I believe I heard jazz, pop, and a bit of Latin influence.

Lyrics added to the storytelling and flowed easily. Crisp, clear diction as well.

I liked the diner props.

Finally got what the "3 weeks in a row" line meant.

I thought the direction flowed and did not distract from the show with extraneous movement.

Dance off was exciting to watch, however, when both sides danced together, it was difficult to see the special nuances.

It may not have been possible but it would have helped to switch out "Robbie's" mic for someone else's. Sound doesn't play into it, but it was very distracting and hard to hear lyrics.

There were only two voices heard in the female trio song which was too bad since it sounded like nice harmonies. I liked the stop time section.

Most ranges were appropriate for singers except at one point I thought the music was too low for Te'Airrah Thomas (I believe it was).

High marks were for direction/choreography/dancing/orchestra

PS. I don't know if I should mention this, but a highlight performance was given by Taylor Rosser. Fun to watch and was in the scene every moment. Great vocals as well.

Congratulations to all.

End Note:

I didn't realize how close my scores were until they were officially tabulated. That's how great I thought everyone was.

There will be some really nice careers ahead for these company members.



Jax and Boom dancing together at the back to school dance.

Purple Side Scores: “Witchful Thinking: One Hex of a Musical”

	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3	TOTAL
Script	9/10	8/10	8/10	25/30
Lyrics	8/10	10/10	7/10	25/30
Score	9/10	10/10	8/10	27/30
Direction	8/10	7/10	6/10	21/30
Choreography	7/10	7/10	8/10	22/30
Acting	8/10	7/10	7/10	22/30
Singing	9/10	10/10	8/10	27/30
Dancing	8/10	8/10	8/10	24/30
Ochestra	9/10	9/10	8/10	26/30
Costumes	9/10	10/10	8/10	27/30
Set	10/10	10/10	8/10	28/30
Hair and Makeup	9/10	9/10	8/10	26/30
Props	5/5	5/5	4/5	14/15
Lighting Design	5/5	5/5	4/5	14/15
Running	10/10	9/10	7/10	26/30
Overal Effect	14/15	13/15	13/15	40/45
Timing				5/5
Production subtotal	137	137	120	399/470
Preproduction total				137.5/164
Total points				536.5/634

Gold Side Scores: “The Golden Days”

	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3	TOTAL
Script	8/10	7/10	7/10	22/30
Lyrics	7/10	7/10	7/10	21/30
Score	6/10	6/10	6/10	18/30
Direction	9/10	8/10	8/10	25/30
Choreography	10/10	10/10	9.5/10	29.5/30
Acting	9/10	8/10	8/10	25/30
Singing	8/10	9/10	9/10	26/30
Dancing	10/10	9.5/10	9.5/10	29/30
Ochestra	7/10	6/10	7/10	20/30
Costumes	6/10	6/10	6/10	18/30
Set	8/10	7/10	7/10	22/30
Hair and Makeup	6/10	6/10	6/10	18/30
Props	5/5	4/5	4/5	13/15
Lighting Design	4/5	3/5	3/5	10/15
Running	9/10	9/10	9/10	27/30
Overal Effect	13/15	12/15	12/15	37/45
Timing				5/5
Production subtotal	125	117.5	118	365.5/470
Preproduction total				128/164
Total points				493.4/634

Oscars snubs: 2020's Unsung Heroes of Film

By JOSIE SHAW

The Oscars have had quite a controversial history in the past few years. With Green Book infamously winning best picture in 2019, and the La La Land and Moonlight mix-up in 2017, it is no surprise that the Academy Awards in 2020 hit an all-time low in viewership.

It seems like the Academy is actively trying to listen to their biggest criticisms, with them committing to a no-host show, and awarding Parasite best picture, the first ever foreign language film to win the award.

While the film community have been receptive to these changes, one major flaw sticks out and that's this year's nominations. While many great studio films were awarded, there are plenty of less marketed and overlooked independent films that deserve recognition for their artistry.

The Lighthouse

Shot in black and white and in 3x5 aspect ratio, it's understandable why it might not have a wide commercial appeal, but the Twilight Zone aesthetic and impressive performances should have taken over the awards.

With the plot following Robert Pattinson and Willem Dafoe's decent into madness, things get dark quickly, and the production team handles that mania very well. Willem Dafoe gives the performance of his lifetime during this film. With extremely impressive direction, I believe that both directing and editing at least deserved a nomination this award season.

Uncut Gems

The Safdie brothers carry the stress inducing filmmaking that they introduced in their previous work. In this almost Shakespearian tragedy like story, Howie Bling, played by Adam Sandler, cons his way through New York's diamond district and can never seem to succeed in gaining his wanted fortune. With the plot following him trying to sell an expensive black opal jewel, the audience's anxiety should be intense all throughout the 136 minute long film.

With this being my favorite movie of 2019, I was shocked to read that this received no nominations. Adam Sandler delivered a shockingly impactful performance, and the Safdie brothers do an excellent job at communicating their frantic and massive world to the screen. Everything down to the soundtrack feels genre bounding, blending action, thriller and a lot of comedy.

Under the Silver Lake

This movie infamously took a while to be released. It was distributed by A24, but for reasons unexplained other than editing, it was delayed twice, releasing nationally a whole year after the initial Cannes opening release.

Whatever the reason behind its delay, it almost adds to the confusion that this neo-noir mystery brings. As a homeless Andrew Garfield loses his mind trying to uncover "Hollywood cryptic mystery's," the audience feels the same while they watch the writers throw clues into every shot and scene. There is a whole subreddit devoted to uncovering the story of "The Dog Killer" that the movie presents.

As one of the most unique and creative movies I have seen in a while, I believe that this would have been a perfect fit for the original screenplay category. Even though the editing is quite messy, this is still a serviceable movie, especially for the Hollywood nostalgia.

The Last Black Man in San Francisco

This movie handles quite heavy topics like gentrification in San Francisco and masculinity but does it in a personal way that I haven't seen before. The director clearly went into this project knowing exactly what he wanted to tell, because every aspect of this movie is polished clean.

Jimmy Fails spends his days cleaning this house he believes his grandfather built in the 40's but is not wealthy enough to reclaim the house to his family. Jimmy spends all his hours pushing for something more in his life, no who or what tries to stop him.

I am genuinely sad that I might not ever be able to watch this in theaters, because the cinematography and score create a beautiful experience. The writing and acting create so many loveable characters that are unforgettable. 'Mont', played by Jonathon Majors, carry many scenes and delivered an amazing performance, leading me to wish he won for best supporting lead.

Anima

"Anima" is an experimental musical short film put together by Radiohead's Thom Yorke and famous director Paul Thomas Anderson. Having "Black Mirror" type qualities, this futuristic world that Anderson builds clicks perfectly with Yorke's sorrow and nihilistic lyrics.

The choreography in this non-linear short is super impressive, showing off Paul Thomas Anderson's technical directing skill. The soundtrack to this film is also quite immersive, which also got barely any attention at the Grammy's. While short films might be harder for a wide audience to connect with, I believe this short and album are impressive enough to be recognized.

Climax

Technically, being a 2019 release under 24, this French new wave psychedelic thriller might be A24's most underappreciated film. The art house film follows a group of French dancers preparing for a United States tour who have their drinks spiked with LSD at practice. What ensues after is even hard to describe, all the dancers begin panicking and everything that could have gone wrong, goes wrong.

Gaspar Noe's movie was not mentioned at all in the Award season and is my personal pick for a Foreign language film. It's already impressive just on a technical level; there is a 42-minute one take shot at the peak of the movie. While long takes have been a trend in recent movies, this movie used it to raise the stakes that the audience feels. Every aspect of this movie is used to terrify the audience, and it is extremely successful at doing so.

For more pop culture reviews visit www.TheAlabamian.com

A Review of Tame Impala's "The Slow Rush"

By NOAH WORTHAM

The psychedelic music artist Tame Impala is back with a brand-new project titled "The Slow Rush." This is the first full-length project in nearly 5 years since the critically acclaimed "Currents" 2015.

"Currents" was an ambitious and surprising change from the sound Tame Impala had established on "InnerSpeaker" 2010 and "Lonerism" 2012. It was a dramatic shift from an instrumental and indie neo-psychedelic sound to a more synth heavy psych-pop. The tunes had catchier hooks and took more risks.

Thus, fans and critics were both eager to see if the next project would maintain this new sound, or if Parker would return the project back to its roots.

It has been a long wait with only three singles released to satiate fan appetites. Kevin Parker, multi-instrumentalist and producer of the project, acknowledged this anxiety and anticipation with the teaser single last year titled "Patience."

The track tackles the hype with the tongue- in-cheek opening line "Has it really been that long?" It has a drum and base foundation with hopeful piano harmonies and light whirring synths. In retrospect, this piece serves as an excellent teaser as to the direction Parker was to take things on his new album.

"The Slow Rush" features much more instrumentation than "Currents" which feels like a successful callback to the structure of "Lonerism." This is not to say that the new style and sound of "Currents" is lost. In many ways this new project feels like a streamlining of the two sounds.

The album opens with "One M8ore Year." A track that begins with what Parker describes as a "Gregorian robot choir" echoing and reverberating. A slow progression is introduced that features gentle cymbal taps alongside drum and bass kicks. The robotic vocals then contort as the first verse is delivered with a romantic echo.

The track has an aesthetic that is both haunting and melancholic. Quiet guitar riffs ease the track into a fade out that ends with complete silence.

The silence is immediately broken as the track "Instant Destiny" erupts into the chorus as Parker sings about his spontaneous marriage proposal and contemplation. The track features a drum and bass beat, yet again, alongside organ like synths. In the chorus Parker sings that he's "about to do something crazy" and that there is "no more delayin'."

Featuring a heavy bass and a groovy beat, the third track titled "Borderline" is a definite stand out of the album. It is a reworking of a single by the same name released last year. This version has harder hitting grooves and a punchy bass. Funky synths and flutes sound underneath the overwhelming beat. The track is fashioned to be so danceable it is hard to ignore its disco influence.

The most introspective track on the project is "Posthumous Forgiveness." Parker describes the song as being about "forgiving someone who's unable to explain themselves."

The first half of the track is dark and gloomy with minor acoustic chord riffs and a synth with the tone of an organ. The tone is that of regret and rage and is even reminiscent of a funeral dirge. The second half features a beat switch into whirring synths with a synth-lead that then continues to be layered. Parker describes the resolution of the track as "the sunshine after the rain."

"Tomorrow's Dust" features an acoustic chord progression that is then doubled as the drums accelerate. Parker delivers a falsetto vocal performance as he sings about how "the air of today is tomorrow's dust." His singing in the refrain is done in a satisfying staccato fashion. The bridge between the chorus and second verse contains gentle synth harmonies that could fit perfectly on a Moody Blues or King Crimson Record.

The track ends with a disappointing atmospheric transition featuring a conversation between two women that is cut and ends abruptly.

As the album's closer, "One More Hour" begins Parker sings "Just a moment right before all the singing ends." He sings that he "did it for love," "fun" and "fame" but "never for money."

This reflective piece focuses on the journey of his relationship and the journey of creating the album. This energetic track contains energetic beating guitars that are contrasted with relaxed vocals. Just like "Currents" the album ends with a gentle fade out.

Due to the nature of this albums combined sound from "Currents" and "Lonerism" it fails to be as distinct as those projects. Despite the flaws I find within the project, I do not find it disappointing. The track listing features more variety than some of his previous works. The vocal performance was varied.

The inclusion of physical instrumentation was a welcome return. It is an enjoyable experience that is worth revisiting and has me interested in what Tame Impala has planned for the future.

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ASK ? ARIEL

By ARIEL HALL, Lifestyles editor

Dear Ariel,

I live a long way from my family and because of this, I don't really get to go home that often. How do I combat being homesick?

From,

Helplessly Homesick

Dear Homesick,

Dealing with homesickness can be really difficult, especially when you're in college and away from home for the first time. So here are some things I do to help out when I'm feeling homesick that may work for you.

One of the biggest things that can help combat your feelings is to get busy. It may be tempting to sit in your room, but picking up a new hobby or getting some coffee with a friend can keep your mind from wandering.

Another thing you can do to combat how you're feeling is to bring home to you. Surround yourself with photos and mementos of your hometown friends and call home often. Being comfortable in your space can boost your mood.

Hope these tips help.

Sincerely,

Ariel

Dear Ariel,

I am graduating at the end of this semester and lately I feel like I'm running out the clock. Any advice on how to battle senioritis?

Thanks,

Burnout Bill

Dear Burnout,

Getting through your last semester can be tough and I give you praise for making it this far. Push on through.

When it comes to senioritis, it can be overwhelming to feel the pressures of college and the real world all at once. So, first thing first, take care of yourself.

Since it is so overwhelming, try to stay organized and set realistic goals. Even the smallest victories can really help you get motivated and stay that way.

Above everything, no matter what you're doing after graduation, whether it's grad school or launching into a career, appreciate how far you've come. Getting a degree is a huge accomplishment and it's something to be proud of.

Congratulations and good luck!

Sincerely,

Ariel

Dear Ariel,

I'm having a hard time reconciling my religion (I'm Christian) with my sexuality. What are some resources for me to learn more about other people like me? How do I work through coming out to people I know will disagree with me?

Sincerely,

Trepidatious Contemplation

Dear Contemplative,

In my opinion, being a part of the LGBT+ community and being Christian, or religious at all, aren't mutually exclusive and I applaud you for being strong in who you are.

While historically, religious institutions haven't always treated the LGBT+ community well, there are several religious denominations that have supportive groups. As far as resources go, there are many non-profit organizations, such as the Trevor Project, who can give you support and connect you with others like you.

The relationship between religion and the LGBT+ community is complicated, so when it comes to coming out, my biggest advice I can give you is to go at your own pace. No two people's journey is the same, so if you don't feel ready to come out, that's totally valid.

If you do feel like you're ready to come out and you're worried about others around you not accepting you, you might consider that they may surprise you. It's impossible to know every outcome and there's no perfect answer to coming out.

Here on campus there are resources such as Spectrum and counseling services, who could also help you find support people. Reach out, the worst thing you can do is keep all of these feelings and fears to yourself. There are people out there who want to help. There are likely a lot more people who are going through this or who gone through this than you think. You aren't alone.

Hope this helps.

Sincerely,

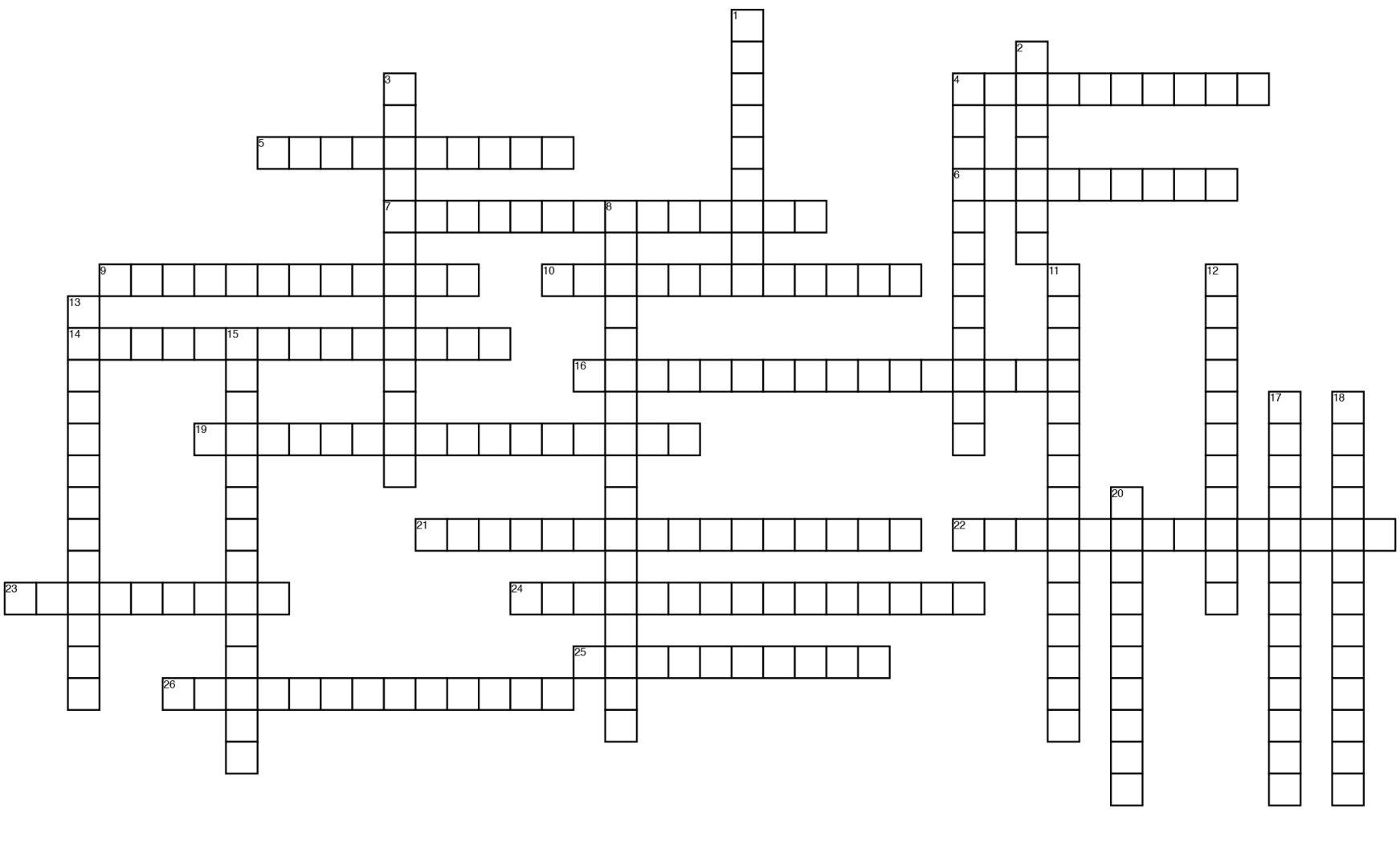
Ariel

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Crossword

By HARRISON NEVILLE, Copy editor



ACROSS

4. First African-American woman to travel into space
5. Female pioneer in the field of radioactivity, it is believed that she died due to her years of exposure to radioactive materials
6. Young girl whose tragic diary about her life during the holocaust was later adapted to a play
7. The Queen of Soul
9. Actress well known for her role as the princess of Alderaan
10. Director of the new Wonder Woman movie
14. First African-American entertainer to win an Oscar. 16 First woman on the supreme court
19. Longest serving First Lady
21. NASA Mathematician who was critical in the launching of the first crewed flights
22. Famous tennis player who has won 23 major singles titles, more than any man or woman in the open era
23. African-American woman who refused to give up her seat on a bus
24. Montevallo alumna who is the first female African American to become a presiding judge in Alabama
25. American female chef credited with bringing French cuisine to the American public
26. This woman suffragist appears on a silver dollar

DOWN

1. Author of southern classic, "To Kill a Mockingbird"
2. The creator of the Album Lemonade
3. Young climate change activist
4. U.S. Women's national soccer player who was named the 2019 SI sportsperson of the year
8. Female Supreme Court Justice; famous for being the lawyer in the Case Reed vs Reed
11. The author of Jane Eyre
12. Author of " I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings"
13. First woman to lead a major Hollywood studio
15. Poet who wrote "Hope is the thing with feathers"
17. Famous female aviator who went missing while flying around the world
18. Creator of the popular manga about two brothers who tried to bring their mother back to life
20. Author whose best-known work has been adapted to include zombies

College Night Leader Candidates



Gold Side leader candidates: Jonathan Everheart, Peri McCoy, Abby Jo Askins and Sergio Flores



Abby Jo Askins, junior communication studies major
Fun Fact: She wants to open her own restaurant.



Sergio Flores, junior music major
Fun Fact: He loves astronomy.



Peri McCoy, junior history major
Fun Fact: She can say the alphabet backwards.



Jonathan Everheart, junior musical theatre major
Fun Fact: He loves to go bowling.



Purple Side leader candidates: Lavaun Thompson, Karli Blankenship, Breyanna James and Mars Peterson



Mars Peterson, junior musical theatre major
Fun Fact: He has taken a cross country road trip to California and New York.



Karli Blankenship, junior English and theatre major
Fun Fact: She can't handle spicy food.



Lavaun Thompson, junior musical theatre major
Fun Fact: He has had a tree fall on him.



Breyanna James, junior social work major
Fun Fact: She has a fear of chickens.

"Midsummer" was a dream come true

By ARIEL HALL, Lifestyles editor

Theatre-goers had been buzzing with excitement for the University's final performance in the Chichester Theatre for weeks and when "Midsummer" opened, it did not disappoint.

Written by William Shakespeare and directed by UM professor Michael Walker, "A Midsummer Night's Dream" centers on the events surrounding the wedding of Athenian duke, Theseus, played by John-Chris Ward, and former queen of the Amazons, Hippolyta, played by Key Stampfli.

With a comedic start, the audience was introduced to Egeus, played by Bailey Glasgow, who marches in with his daughter Hermia, played by Macy Robinson, and her two suitors, Lysander, played by Kam Sanderfer, and Demetrius, played by Kodi-Mae McDearmont. Though her father wishes that she'd marry Demetrius, Hermia refused as she's in love with Lysander.

The lovers Hermia and Lysander share their plan to sneak away from Athens with Helena, played by Katy Barnes, Hermia's friend and Demetrius' former lover. Wanting to win her lover back, Helena shares this plan with Demetrius and the four of them flee from Athens.

Notably, the use of physical humor in Walker's vision of "Midsummer" made actors' deliveries that much better. For example, when Helena chases Demetrius in attempt to win them back, Demetrius tip-toes around a cushion that the characters refer to as the poof and Helena even goes so far as to chase them out of the room. Barnes' portrayal of Helena's desperation in response to Demetrius' crushing rejection made for comedic gold.

The show then shifted focus to two other groups. First to come into view was a group of actors who were to present a tragic love story to Theseus on his wedding day. Played by Mars Peterson, Bottom, an arrogant and overconfident performer is to play Pyramus while Flute, played by Amanda Watson, is to play Thisbe, the lover.

Then enter Puck and the rest of the fairies, including Oberon, Puck's master, and Titania, Oberon's rival. After an argument, Oberon sends Puck to find a magical flower, the juice of which makes a person fall in love with the first thing they see upon waking, and use it on Titania.

One of my favorite aspects of this production was the gender dynamics of this show. It immediately came to mind because Puck, a traditionally male character, was played by Isabella Herrington, who I thought brought a refreshing and bold charm to the mischievous fairy.

With a case of mistaken identity, Puck uses the flower on Lysander instead and chaos ensues. As the night progresses and Puck attempts to undo her mistake, both Lysander and Demetrius end up in love with Helena, who believes that they are mocking her. Hermia becomes jealous and tries to challenge Helena to a fight.

When Titania wakes, the first creature they see is Bottom, whose head Puck had transformed into a donkey's. Eventually, Puck spreads the love potion on Lysander's eyelids, and by morning, all is back to as it was.

Theseus and Hippolyta discover them sleeping and takes them back to Athens to be married. After the group wedding, the couples watch Bottom and his fellow performers in their play. The play ends as Puck urges the audience to remember the play as though it had all been a dream.

The cast of "Midsummer" didn't miss a beat, as everyone brought something new and interesting to their character, especially the lovers.

Macy Robinson turned Hermia, a classical damsel in distress into a feisty and lovable woman. Likewise, Kam Sanderfer brought a level of intricacy and emotion to Lysander. I also found McDearmont's playful version of Demetrius to be quite entertaining, especially in contrast Barnes, who in her college debut, did an impressive job in bringing her character to life and was truly captivating.

John-Chris Ward and Key Stampfli both did an excellent job as they made their characters Oberon and Titania anything but ordinary. The addition of drag in this show highlighted, in my opinion, that portrayal of characters outside the gender binary is definitely a step in the right direction, especially because Shakespearean plays were hallmarked with all-male companies.

Though I am not a fan of the Shakespearean trope to have a play within a play, I found that Mars Peterson and Amanda Watson's on-purpose terrible acting made the audience laugh even harder. Their absurd over the top deaths and going as so far as to have Watson's character play thumb war with Theseus had me trying to catch my breath from laughing.

Overall, from the use of black lights and disco balls to the mix of patterns in costumes, every mark was hit perfectly and this show completely blew me away. As someone who does not particularly enjoy Shakespeare, I found that this production did a phenomenal job in bring to life a modern twist on an age-old story.

Lifestyles

Horoscopes

By VALERIE FLYNN

Aries ♈ Look back on your truths this week. You've been taking a lot of risks lately, and it's about time for some reflections. Transparency only works when you look through the glass.

Taurus ♉ Casual comforts may be your vice, but it might be a good idea to break out of habit. Take a walk, step out of your comfort zone. Go on an adventure with friends.

Gemini ♊ When things get hard, it's easy to blame the part of yourself you don't favor. Remember that you are a sum of all your parts, not just expendable puzzle pieces. What does too much self criticism really give you?

Cancer ♋ As the season changes, you should follow suit. Create a new face for yourself by letting out the old and bringing in the new. Breathe in and out. Experience the day as if you have just been born.

Leo ♌ Things surrounding you may have been hectic, but you might've been too distracted to notice. Come out, look around. It's all here, you just don't want to see.

Virgo ♍ Celebrate what you have created, your work is not going unnoticed. Slow down and relish in yourself. Your future will be there tomorrow, let the present breathe.

Libra ♎ You love to love, but once things get too real you take steps back. Only you know how you truly feel. You can't fall in love with telepaths-they don't exist.

Scorpio ♏ You have been on fire. Take a minute to remind yourself what it feels like to be in the sun, to take a good shower. Sometimes the best pleasures come from the simplest of things.

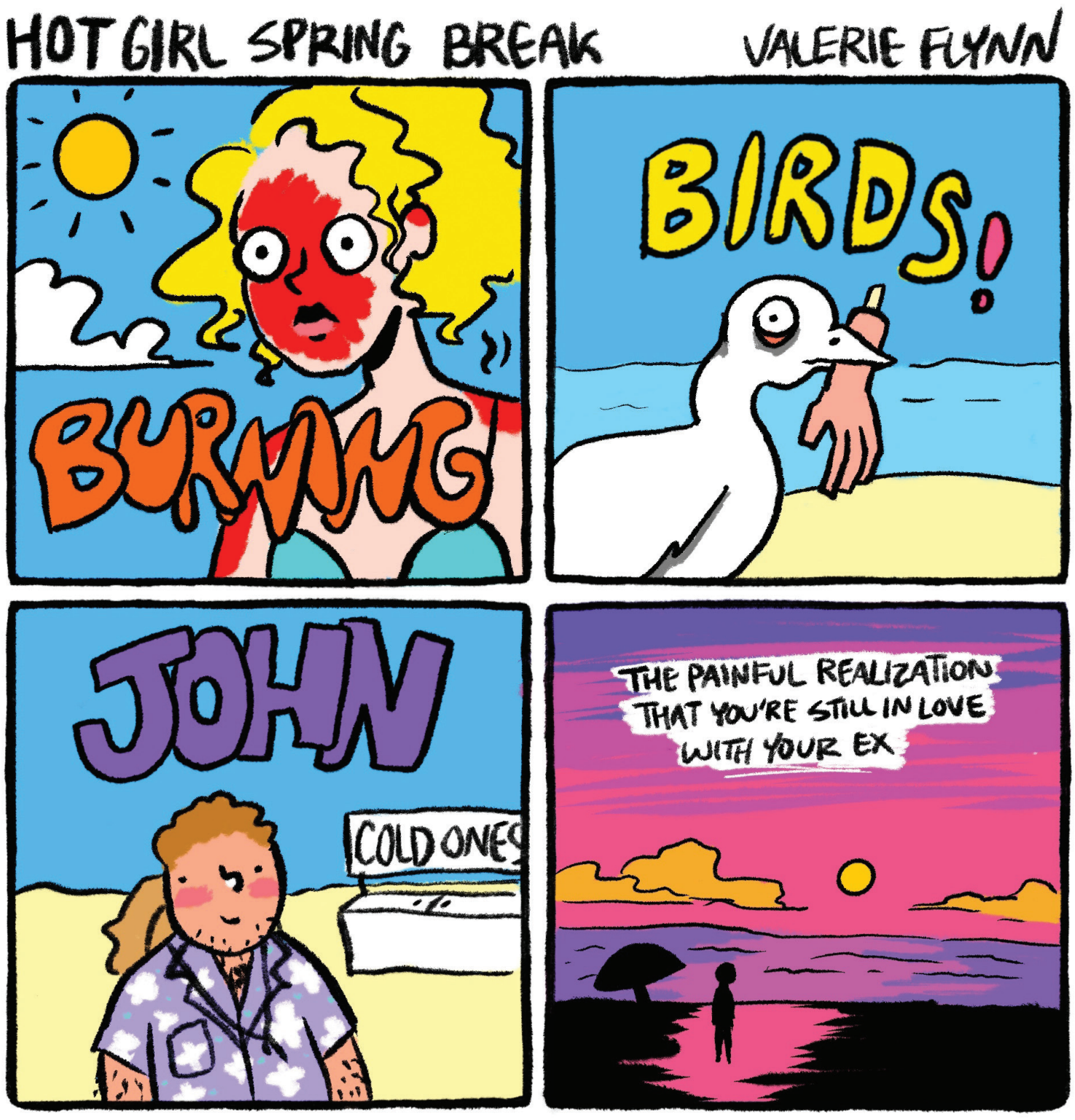
Sagittarius ♐ The ground you walk on is always shifting, it's your nature. Ground yourself. Speak with someone you love, and remind yourself how it feels to be seen.

Aquarius ♒ Despite your seasons' recent end, this is not at all any reason to suffer. Your creativity and individualism is peaking. Paint the night away.

Pisces ♓ Treat yourself to new beginnings. This is your season, and you owe it to yourself to celebrate the human experience. Be open to love and it just might be open to you.

Capricorn ♑ Don't question yourself right now. It's easy to doubt your ambitions, but sometimes it is wise to walk into the forest without knowing what lurks in the shadows. Do it.

Comic



Spotify® PLAYLIST — FEMALE ARTISTS

By The ALABAMIAN STAFF

"Daddy Lessons" by Beyoncé
This is a song about a father who helped teach his daughter how to protect herself, and by remembering it she remembers just how strong she really is.

"Follow your Arrow" by Kacey Musgraves
This is the "be yourself" anthem that everyone needs. It contains one of my favorite lyrics of all time "You only get so many trips around the sun."

"Feelin Good" by Christina Grimmie
As the title implies, this is a wonderful feel good song. It is the anthem to my never-ending war against depression and sadness.

"Army of Me" by Björk
"Army of Me" is the leading single on Björk's album "Post." The song is a call of action to her brother who is in a poor situation. If he continues to refuse to fix this situation, he will have to meet an army of her.

"Juice" by Lizzo
This is everything that a hype song should be and more.

"Bad Guy" by Billie Eilish
A lot of people don't like this song because they believed Billie, at the time, shouldn't have been portraying such edgy and adult themes; however, they missed the concept of the song. The idea is that she is trying to be faux-bad to match the attitudes of men who act as if they can do whatever they want with no repercussions. This song and the album that it is the title track of brought her home six Grammys.

"Kill V. Maim" by Grimes
Nothing makes me feel more like overthrowing the government with my girl gang than this song. The rapid tempo and intense beat instantly makes me turn up. The song is catchy and has a yell-able chorus for all the ladies to scream to together.

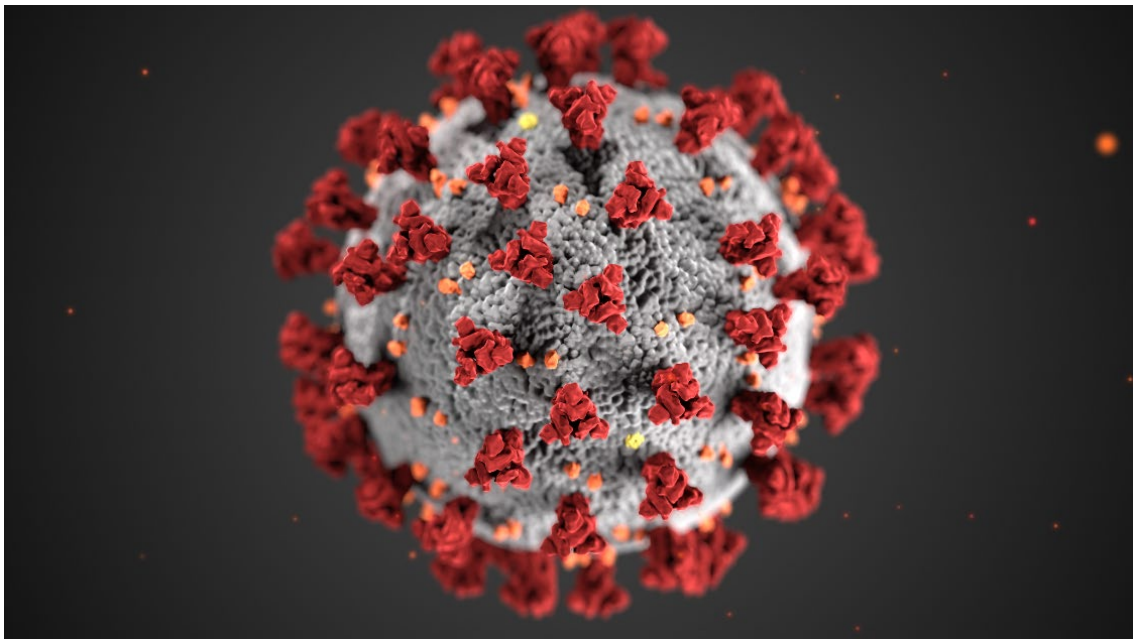
"Criminal" by Fiona Apple
I find this song to be an incredibly empowering contrast of strength and vulnerability. There's a lot of complexities to read into with the tune, but even beyond the lyricism, Apple's sultry confidence is one to be cherished.

"I'm Every Woman" by Chaka Khan
This catchy classic is a go-to song to sing at the top of your lungs in your car with the windows down. Unlike a lot of songs that follow the toxic "I'm not like other girls" trope, Chaka Khan's song says she feels good because she embodies every great woman that there is. This song is a retro classic perfect for feeling good, roller skating or girl's get-ready-together time before a night out.

"Oblivion" by Grimes
This hypnotizing track conveys the fear of predatory figures at night. Grimes takes this distinct women's issue and uses it instead as a form of empowerment.

The Alabamian

Montevallo students cope with uncertainty amidst COVID-19 outbreak.



"Illustration, created at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), reveals ultrastructural morphology exhibited by coronaviruses." -CDC

By Caleb Jones, NEWS EDITOR

"We can't just turn in a paper or do online busy work to learn and succeed in our field... I have dance classes and acting classes and there is no way for me to actually learn what I need over a computer," said sophomore theater major Joy Hill.

This story discusses some of the issues Montevallo students have had since the closing of the University in the midst of the novel coronavirus outbreak, as well as how the UM administration has been addressed some of these issues. It discusses resident housing for students who can't leave, financial problems students have faced outside of school, and the accounts of fine arts students, international students and student athletes.

Read more at: http://www.thealabamian.com/montevallo-students-cope-with-uncertainty-amidst-covid-19-outbreak/

NEWS

SGA continues after UM online transition.



"We're going to do everything we can to move digitally and continue to represent students during this uncertain time," said Madison Hollon, SGA Vice President.

This article is a recap of the two SGA senate meetings that took place prior to the closing of the University of Montevallo's campus due to the threat presented by Coronavirus. The article also gives details on the future plans of the SGA during the closure and how they plan to continue to serve the student body despite not being physically present on the campus.

Read more at: http://www.thealabamian.com/sga-continues-despite-um-closing/

Despite pandemic, city comes together for Love Montevallo Day



"Montevallo" mural at Barnes and Nobles depicting important people and places to the city of Montevallo. Photo by Wesley Hyde

By Wesley Hyde

"I'm happy it's something we can still do, and it gives this nice feeling of community," said attendee, Melanie Poole.

This article covers the Love Montevallo Day event hosted by the city of Montevallo on Main Street, March 14. The event went on despite the cancellation of various portions including the 5k color run that was supposed to be held prior. This shines some light on the mindset behind the event's continuation despite the coronavirus outbreak the event's significance to those who attended. This article also covers the ribbon cutting of a new mural on Main Street Montevallo.

Read more at: http://www.thealabamian.com/despite-pandemic-city-comes-together-for-love-montevallo-day/

LIFESTYLES

Mars Peterson on breaking boundaries.

By Zoe Hall, LIFESTYLES EDITOR



Mars Peterson, musical theatre major and active member of Purple Side. Photo by Kat Bell

"Coming out to my parents and not having that support there and then coming to Montevallo and having that family with College Night, was just something that really encompassed me as a person and helped me really find myself," said Mars Peterson.

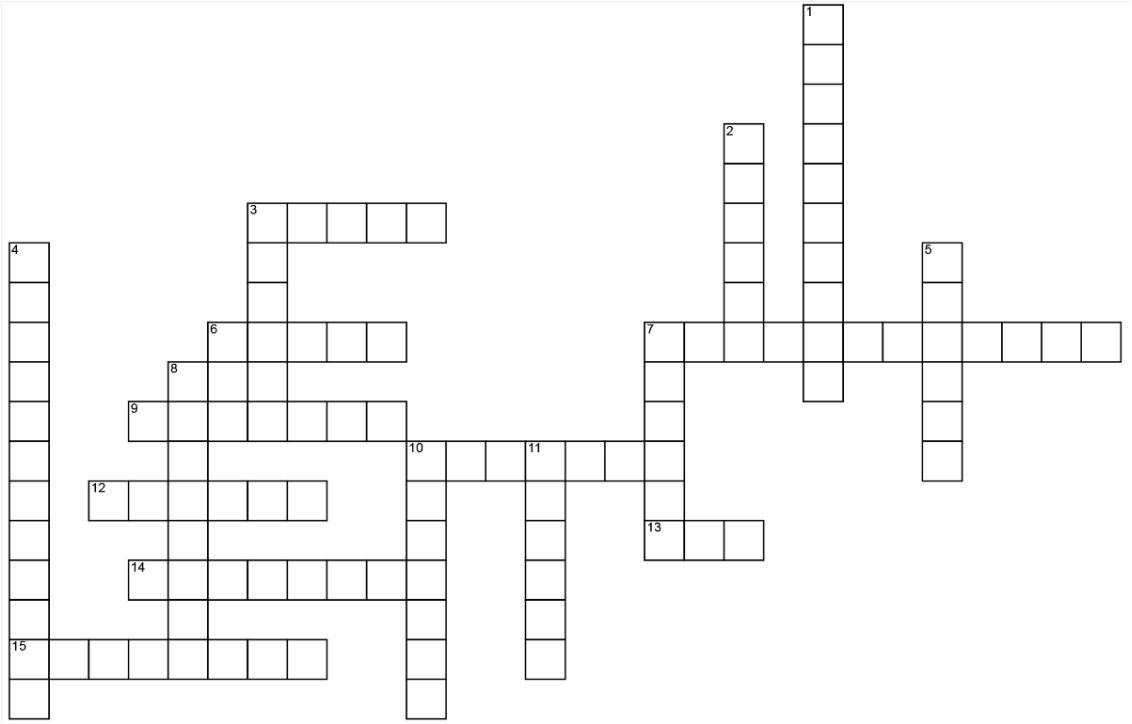
In this feature, Mars Peterson discusses his experience as a trans student at UM. He talks about how he grew up and how he's grown at Montevallo, especially through his involvement in the Theatre Department and College Night. Peterson was also recently the first trans student to run for Purple Side leader.

Read more at: http://www.thealabamian.com/mars-peterson-on-breaking-boundaries/

Crossword

Pokemon Facts

By Harrison Neville, COPY EDITOR



ACROSS

3. Most lovestruck character in the TV series

6. A young girl who's innocent bike was a casualty of Ash's stupidity.

7. An irresponsible old geezer who gives children monsters and then sends them out into the world.

9. Data collection device.

10 Some migraines hurt, but if this pokemon's gets too bad it hurts others.

12. Head of the secret police

13. A twelve-year old immortal who dreams of being the world's greatest trainer.

14. Powerful pokemon that lives in the distortion world

15. Healer in the world of Pokemon

DOWN

1. Group of villains from the Kanto Region

2. Pokemon created from the cloning of Mew

3. The hot-headed quiz-master.

4. We are one, we are many, we are the law

5. Talking pokemon who is a member of Team Rocket

7. The ruler of space 8 The happiest of crocodiles

10. Famous Electric Mouse

11. The ruler of time

Horoscopes

By ALEX WARREN

Aries ♈ This week would be a good time to focus on your health and wellbeing. Whether that means working out, eating better, drinking more water or just doing a face mask, take time for yourself!

Taurus ♉ Don't feel like you haven't been noticed, Taurus. Your hard work will be acknowledged, along with your character. Continue to make the right decisions so that you make a good lasting impression on those around you.

Gemini ♊ Your home situation may be changing this upcoming week, but do not fear it. You may be stressed trying to get all the details right, but breathe and think before you speak. Hone in on your creativity and let that drive you into success!

Cancer ♋ This week will be full of fun opportunities. Don't be afraid to let loose, just take care of yourself and everything will be fine.

Leo ♌ Your hard work may pay off very soon, Leo. Remember what you are working for, and the rewards will be sweet. Just don't compromise your values and beliefs to get what you want.

Virgo ♍ You may feel this month's full moon, which is in your sign, affects you. While you may usually feel reserved and happy helping silently, you may find that you feel comfortable speaking your mind.

Libra ♎ This week may be a good time to do some self-reflection. Feel free to forgive those who you've been wanting to. Rest, relax, and take care of yourself.

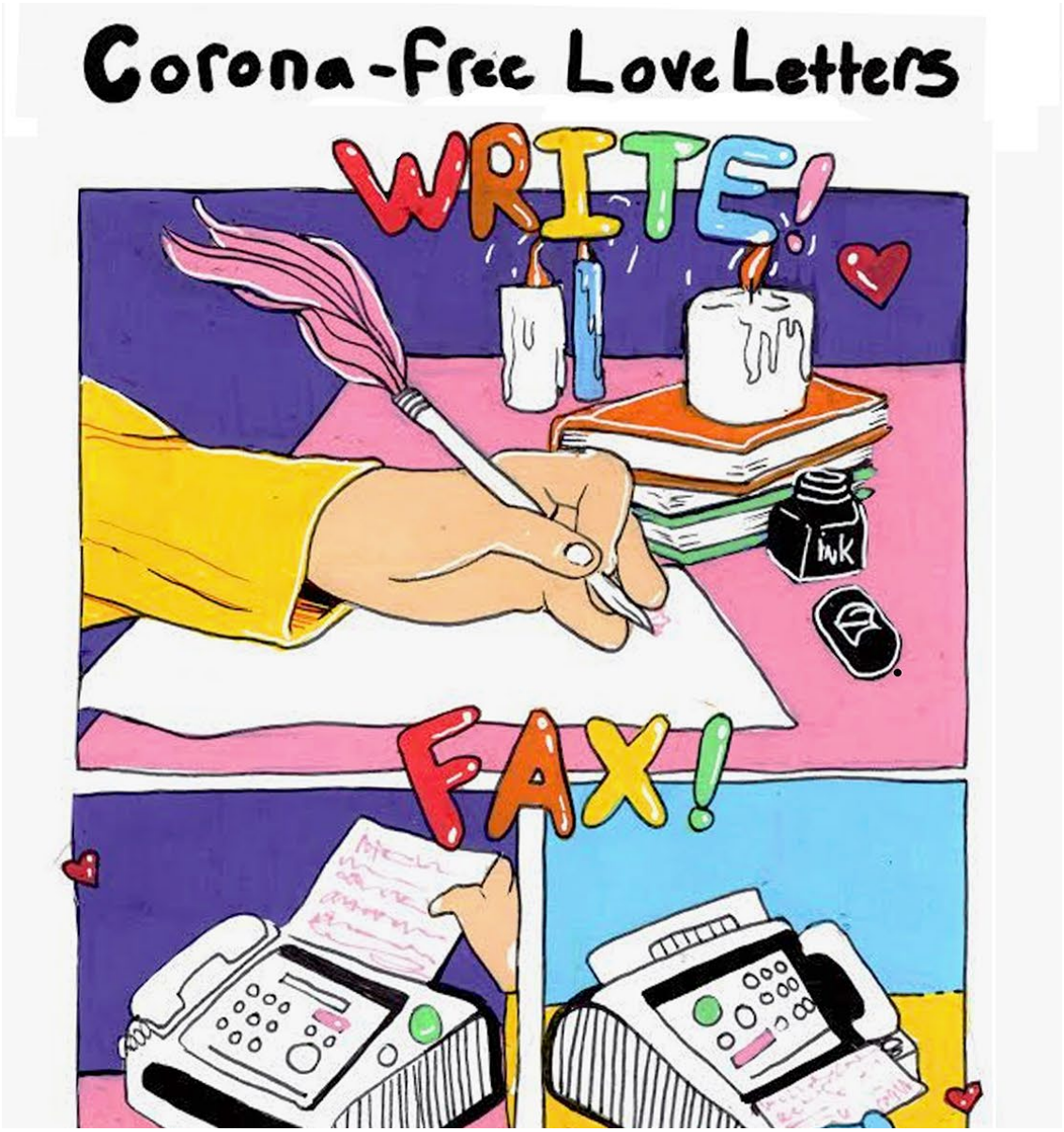
Scorpio ♏ Don't stay holed up for too long Scorpio. Take the arrival of spring as a reason to start going outside and spending time with nature!

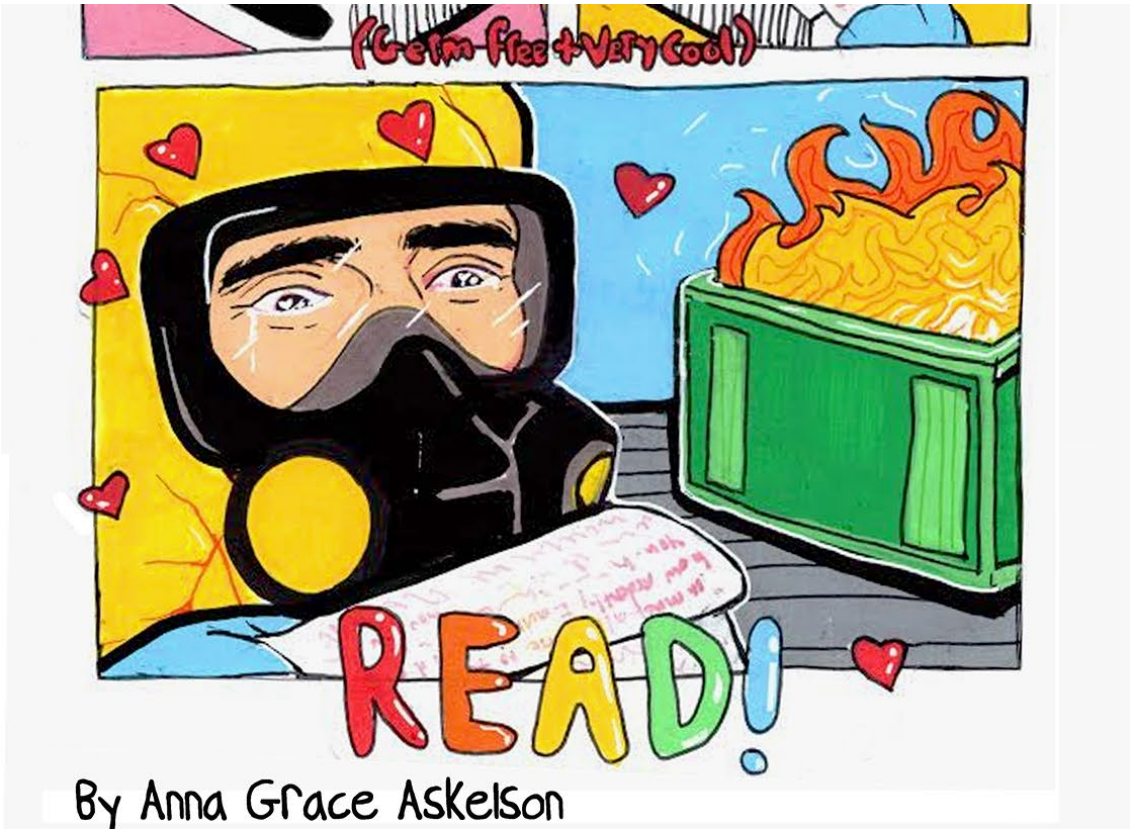
Sagittarius ♐ The steps you've been taking in your projects will be coming to fruition soon! Be proud of the work you've done. But don't forget to focus and balance the other areas of your life as well.

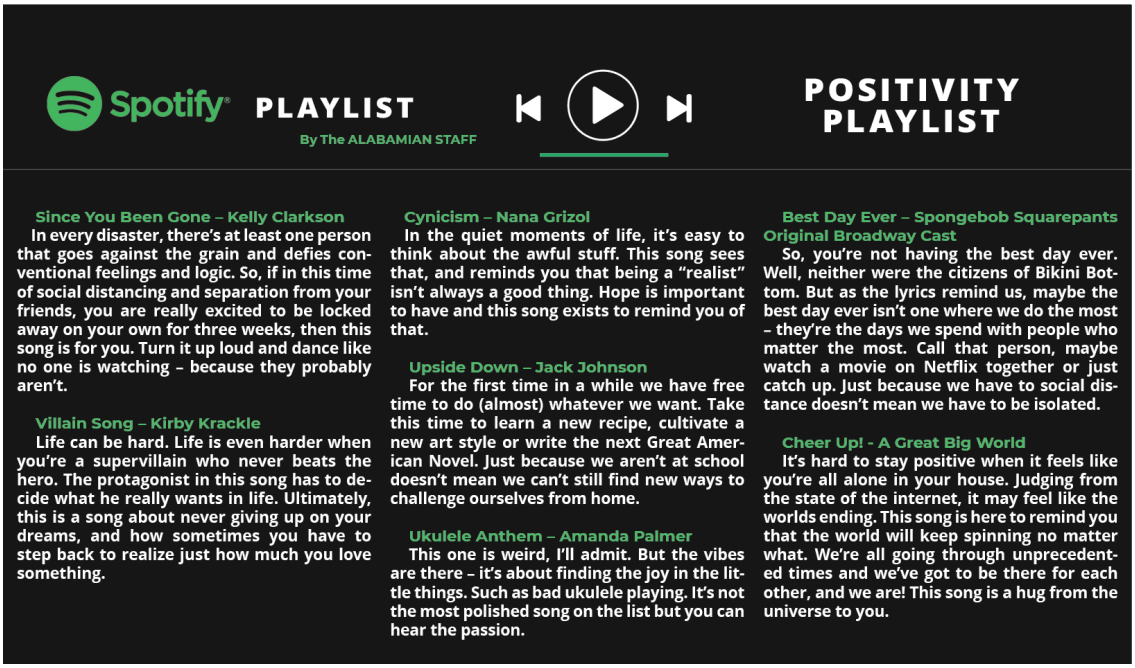
Capricorn ♑ Take risks in the things you work for, Cap. Be bold and creative, you could come up with great ideas, which your peers may be excited to see these come from you!

Aquarius ♒ Pay attention to the conversations you will have soon. Realize what is small talk, and what is actually someone looking for a deeper connection. Be purposeful and don't get distracted.

Pisces ♓ Things may finally be reaching their true potential in your partnerships. Connect with your friends, have deep and meaningful conversations and really explore all components of your life as you further these relationships.







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The Alabamian

UM to allow students option of pass/fail grades for Spring 2020



Illustration by Bell Jackson

By Waid Jones, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In a response to student and faculty concerns about their ability to perform academically. Or, in some cases, shared concerns about how their classes will transition to an online format at all.

In response to these concerns, UM's provost and vice president of academic affairs, Tami Dahle, announced that the University would allow students the option to transition their end of semester grades to a pass/fail system via email.

Read how some students felt about the change, and how you could take advantage of this change at: http://www.thealabamian.com/?p=5089

NEWS

SGA Constitution Breakdown



"The SGA constitution is a document which not only governs the SGA, but also governs the student body as a whole; yet, just like the U.S. constitution, the number of students who have read it or have knowledge of it is low."

This article examines the different branches of government which make up the SGA and how they function to serve the student body as a whole. It also explains some of the laws which govern members of the SGA and some of the powers and duties that those members possess.

Read more at: http://www.thealabamian.com/?p=5085

LIFESTYLES



By Zoe Hall, LIFESTYLES EDITOR

Dear Zoe,
Being back home is weird for me, because I'm really used to being on my own at school, but now that I'm living at home, I feel like I'm back to being a kid again. How do I maintain my independence while still respecting the fact that I'm living in my parents' house?

From,
Trapped in childhood

Dear Trapped in Childhood,
I'd just like to start out by saying that what you're feeling is totally valid, and you're not alone. Gaining independence while you're having to live at home presents a new challenge, but not an impossible one.

The best way I think you can maintain your independence is to maintain your own routine. It'll allow you to focus on yourself while you're at home. Have set aside time to deal with class and work, and don't forget to block out time for just yourself. Whether you use this time to crack open a book or practice some other form of self-care, having a solid routine during this uncertain time can make the ground feel more solid under your feet.

Hope this helps, and stay safe.

Sincerely,
Zoe

Dear Zoe,
One of my friends has been alone and in his apartment since the University got closed and I'm pretty sure he's going stir crazy. He's done all sorts of weird things, like tweeting about "Jersey Shore" and impulse buying a Wonder Woman onesie. Should I be worried about him?

Sincerely,
A concerned friend

Dear Concerned Friend,
With being shut in his apartment, I don't blame your friend at all. I wouldn't be worried though; your friend is likely just trying to cope with the uncertainty of his environment, between campus closing, moving online and impending events being canceled.

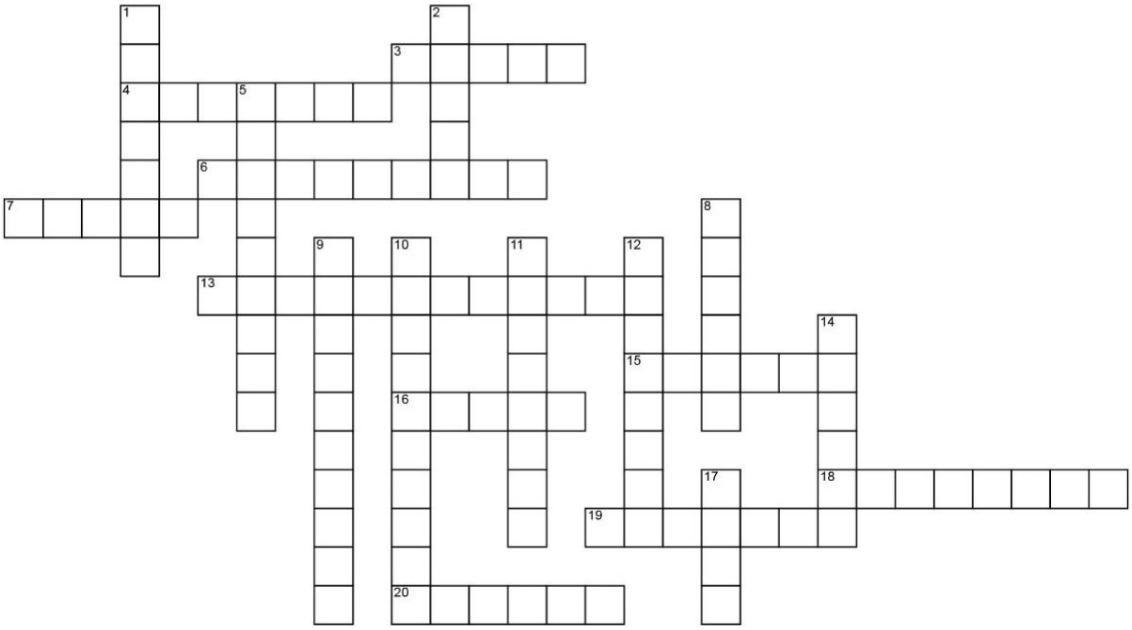
However, I would advise you to keep in touch with your friend. Spend time with him however you want. You can text or call him as often as you feel or even stream movies together through different applications. Play an online game together. Time with friends, even if it is through a screen, can make this difficult time a little easier.

Sincerely,
Zoe

Crossword

Animal Crossing

By Harrison Neville, COPY EDITOR



ACROSS

3. What is Animal Crossing's currency called?

4. Every day in winter, you have the chance to make this non playable character.

6. How do you retrieve a present from the sky?

7. The older of the two Able sisters.

13. How you travel to your friends islands in New Horizons?

15. A faceless villager; in some games, she lets you draw a new expression on her.

16. You may be able to find items hidden here, but watch out for bees!

18. This traveling musician has appeared in every Animal Crossing game since the first one.

19. If you close your game without saving, be prepared for a visit from this guy!

20. In Animal Crossing: Happy Home Designer, this peppy pink otter is one of your coworkers.

DOWN

1. Before you can display dinosaur bones in your museum, what do you need to find?

2. This fruit is often considered the most valuable fruit.

5. What was the name of the second Animal Crossing game in the US?

8. This Animal Crossing Holiday is based on the human Christmas Eve.

9. What is the name of the Animal Crossing mobile game?

10. Some players do this to unlock special events early!

11. What is the name of the company that made Animal Crossing?

12. What is the name of your assistant in Animal Crossing: New Leaf?

14. What kind of creature sells you your home?

17 This species of villager, introduced in Animal Crossing New Leaf, includes Beau, Fuchsia and Fauna.

Horoscopes

By ALEX WARREN

Aries ♈ You may usually be fine by yourself, but if you've been isolated, now is the time to think creatively on how to connect without compromising your distancing. Call a friend, go outside and take a walk or anything else that's outside of the box!

Taurus ♉ You have the power and tools to help others around you. It may be a slow process, but be patient. Don't dismiss your talents and intellect. Push through the roadblocks and you will be successful.

Gemini ♊ You may be getting antsy having to stay in one place, Gemini. Instead of taking off on some outside adventure, look into how you could expand your knowledge online. Join a club, study a new language or learn a new hobby.

Cancer ♋ This week is going to be one of the best times for you to get in touch with your inner self. Meditate and process, but don't hold it in either! Channel it through an artistic endeavor, or anything you can think of creatively.

Leo ♌ You may be temperamental this week from doing the same thing over and over. Try not to get overheated! Take a step back and see what relationships need to be worked on, or what is the root cause of the problem.

Virgo ♍ This week is all about active self-care, Virgo. If you've been itching to get started on some at-home exercise, but don't know where to start, just dive right in! This will be more beneficial to you than journaling right now.

Libra ♎ Take charge and be a leader this week! You have the skills and the knowledge necessary to do a great job. However, don't get a big head. Listen to others and you will be successful.

Scorpio ♏ You cannot be functional if your space is not functional. Right now, your space may be serving a multitude of purposes, but before anything, make it somewhere you feel comfortable and safe to be.

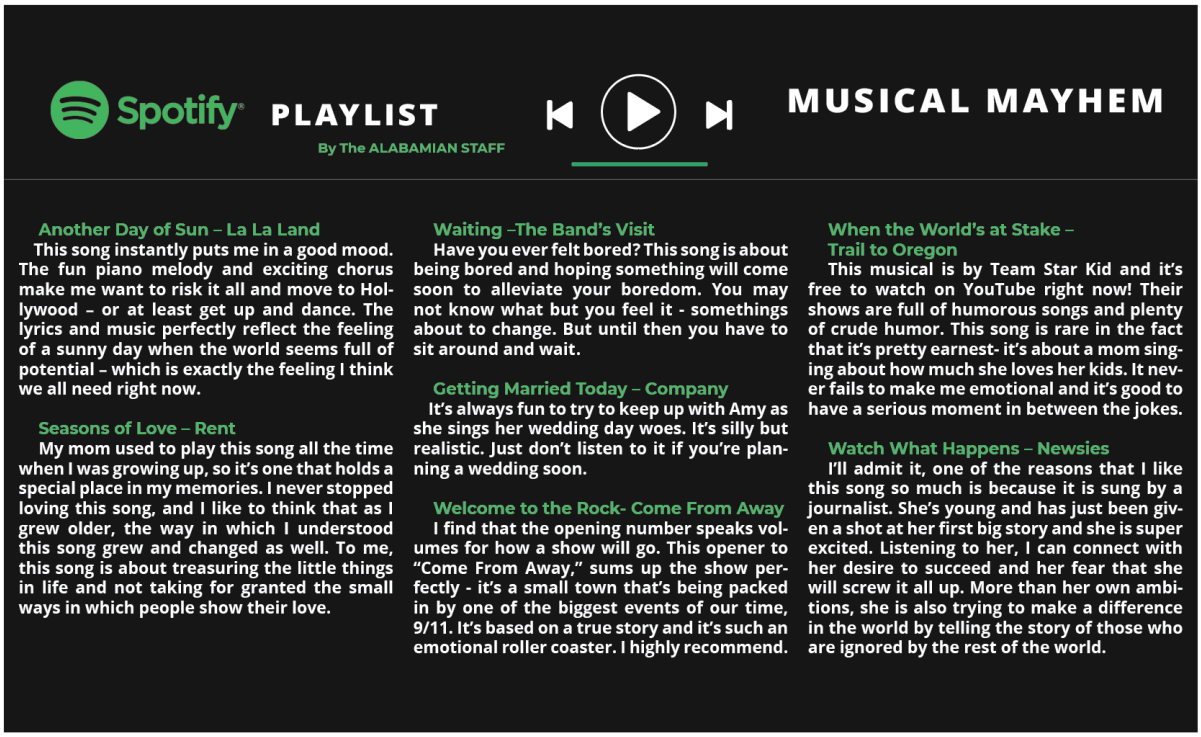
Sagittarius ♐ Don't give in to the negative thoughts that you are alone. You never are, and your loved ones are only a call away! Just because you have to be separate physically, does not mean you have to be separate emotionally.

Capricorn ♑ You may be feeling your best in these times. Your hard-working nature is driving your through these weird few weeks, and you should let it! Get the projects done that you've been wanting to, this energy will burn out at some point.

Aquarius ♒ You may be wanting to help people in these odd times. However, don't be impulsive and think about any risks or consequences before you make any decisions. You can't help others if you need help too.

Pisces ♓ You always want to take care of others, but right now you need to focus on YOU. Take some time for self-care. Meditate, journal and recharge, so that you can be the best you there is.





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The Alabamian

Alabama issues stay-at-home order



Illustration by Bell Jackson

By Waid Jones, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On April 3 Governor Kay Ivey issued a stay-at-home order for Alabama. This article explains some of the exceptions to the mandatory order and answers questions we received from our readers shortly after the announcement. The order went into effect on Saturday, April 4 and will be in effect until further notice.

The article talks about who can leave their homes and when, and clears some of our readers' confusion around whether they can travel to see family and get groceries.

Read the full article at: http://www.thealabamian.com/?p=5115

NEWS

SGA RECAP

Harrison Neville, SGA columnist

"Since the SGA was unable to meet in person, the senate met via zoom this past Wednesday."

Despite the changes that have come to the university, the SGA continues to serve the student body.

While there are currently no students on campus, senators are working legislation to make improvements for next semester.

This article goes into detail on the new technology bill that the SGA is working on to improve student's ability to file constituent reports how the SGA is handling the challenges of governing through distance methods.

Read more at: http://www.thealabamian.com/?p=5113

Opinion

Party Hard in Quarantine

By Anna Grace Askelson

If your birthday falls during quarantine, you may find yourself disappointed with the lack of a traditional birthday party. However, it turns out that social distancing just makes parties different, but not impossible. Through Zoom, online games and some patience you can still celebrate!

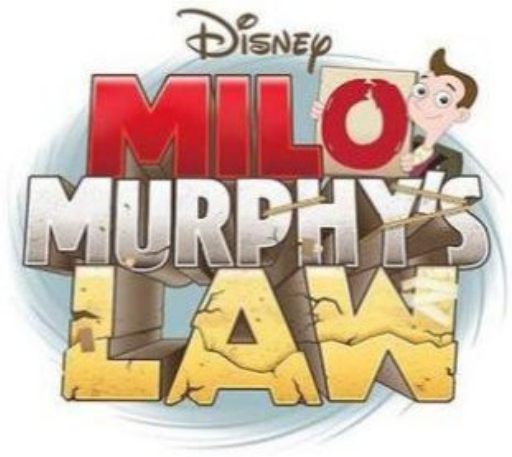
This article takes you through the highs and lows of my process for throwing my online birthday party. It offers some Zoom tips and tricks, as well as a review of the experience in general.

Read the full article at: http://www.thealabamian.com/?p=5117

LIFESTYLES

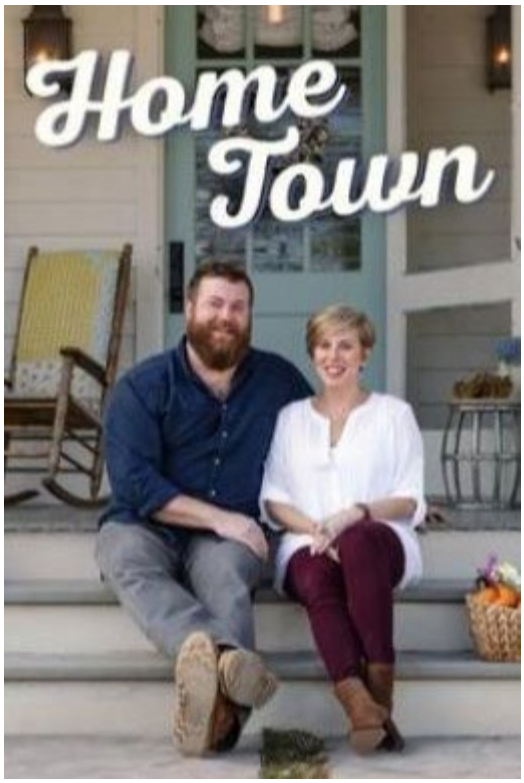
Televisions shows to binge while in quarantine

By Katy Barnes









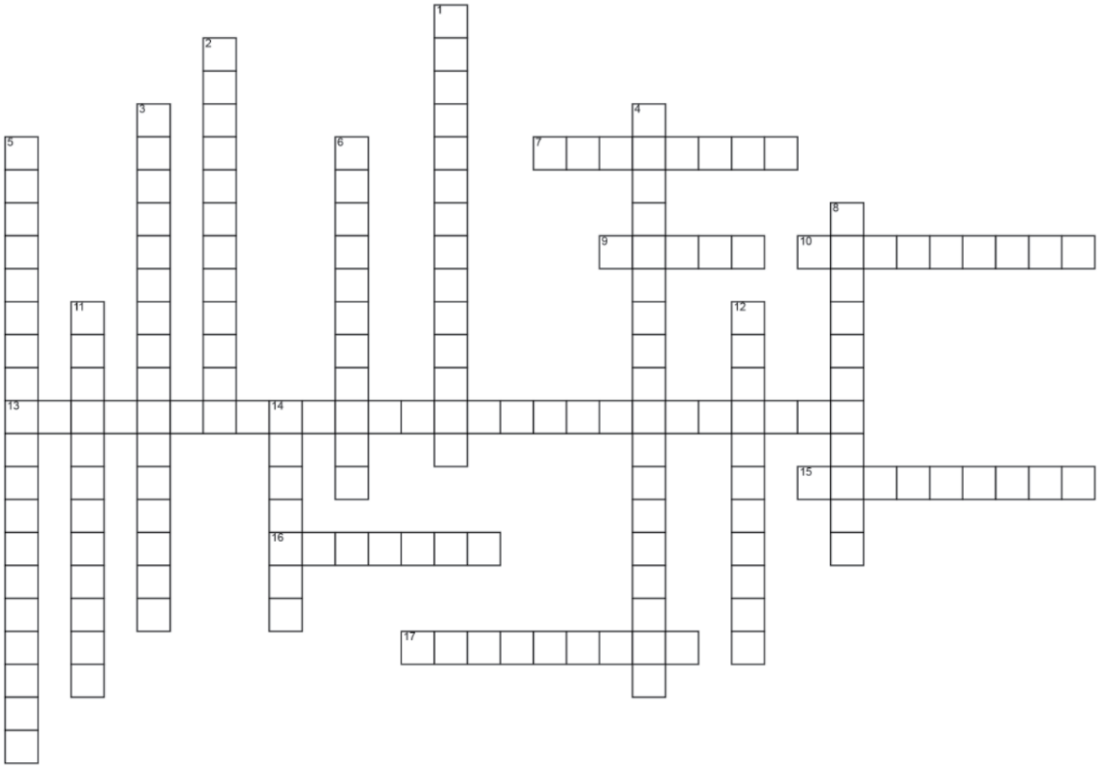


Read my reasoning at: http://www.thealabamian.com/?p=5111

Crossword

TV Shows to Help Social Distance

By The Alabamian Staff



ACROSS

7. A hero unlike any other, and a hilarious journey of hijinks, knights, dueling and, most importantly, singing!
9. I know you know this tv show about a detective and his best friend, a pharmaceutical salesman.
10. Show where one characters says the words "bears, beats and [the answer to 5 down]."
13. Misfortune follows a trio of orphans wherever they go in the form of an evil count obsessed with possessing their fortune.
15. While this show didn't quite make it to six seasons and a movie, who knew that a show about a college study group would make it past the first season?
16. This 90's sitcom centered on a group of pals in the Big Apple, often in an iconic coffee shop.
17. Like, zoinks! Is that a ghost?

DOWN

1. Ever wanted to fight a mummy or give a monkey a shower?
2. This show about a three-year graduate program in magic ended last week, so now's the time to binge all five seasons.
3. "Wuntch is served" on this comedy about a New York Police Precinct.
4. This show starts out with its enterprising main character trying to turn a sinkhole into a park.
5. This modern Sci-Fi show relaunched the famous 1980s cult TV classic. It focuses on the last survivors of a distant world as they try to find their way to a mythical version of Earth.
6. Stop me if you've heard this one before. A magician, a vampire and a monster hunter walk into Dracula's castle.
8. You've probably seen the opening clip featuring Jeff Daniels on this 2012 HBO TV show.
11. Every family has its little quirks. For some it's a love of fishing, for others it's an obsession with hunting and killing monsters.
12. The Voice, but with dating.
14. It's a crime that this Joss Whedon classic only made it to 14 episodes of space adventuring goodness.



By ALEX WARREN

Aries You may feel a strong desire to express yourself and be vocal this week. Communicate with your friends to find the best outlet for your activism or other creative inspirations!

Taurus You've been working very hard lately, so be careful not to be too negative. You may be drained; just remember, it's okay to back off some and relax. You have more time than you realize.

Gemini You may be burnt out from your every-day routine. Right now, the most important thing is to trust your gut and put your energy into what you think is most important.

Cancer You may feel as though you are having to work for something you do not actually want. Take your time to think about the choices you are going to make before you act on them.

Leo Don't get caught up in being too social this week. Instead, channel that energy into working on projects or learning something new!

Virgo You may be having trouble seeing the world from other points of views, which can lead to trouble in your relationships. Don't rush into deep conversations, but take a minute to actually listen to others.

Libra Lately you may have felt like you were small and no one was listening. Take charge this week and speak your mind. You are more likely to be heard.

Scorpio You may be wanting to let go and do what your heart desires this week. It's okay to indulge in fantasies every once in a while. Be confident in your choices, but be cautious as well.

Sagittarius You may be close to finishing a collaborative project. If you feel like you could add some significant final touches, speak up! Your voice is important and you should be confident in your intellect.

Capricorn Your hard work may be recognized this upcoming week, Cap. You finally have a chance to take a break, so use this time to catch up with loved ones!

Aquarius If your temper is getting the better of you, catch yourself and stop for a second to think. It's easy to get lost in your emotions, but don't forget to reconcile with those you may argue with.

Pisces You may be wanting to learn new things and take on multiple tasks, but this week may not be the best time for that. Plan for the future, so that when you're ready you'll be the most productive you can be.

Spotify PLAYLIST

By The ALABAMIAN STAFF

EVERYDAY IS SATURDAY

Vampire Weekend "Oxford comma"
When every day is a weekend there's not time to take that last pause, just roll on into your PJs and let's do this. Welcome to a playlist for a new kind of world. It's time to tell the truth, take a mask and put it on, and let's talk about our endless weekend.

Bruno Mars "The Lazy Song"
This is how I feel on the weekends, and now it's how I feel every day. In between zoom calls, classes and trying to find a job, I'm chillin' in my snuggy and trying to learn tik tok dances. This song just exemplifies this.

Coldplay "Hymn for the weekend"
This song takes me to a different place. It feels slow and fast all at the same time. Just like time's moving right now. I think Coldplay and Beyoncé -- oh yeah, don't forget that Queen B is on this track -- meant this to be for a different weekend, but I think it's applicable here. Just relax and let this song take you to a different place.

Panic! At the Disco "High Hopes"
I've got high hopes for this one, and every day is a new day to have hope for. If you wake up every day on your weird infinite weekend to this song, your spirits are undoubtedly going to be held high.

Ed Sheeran "Galway Girl"
Now, hear me out. What better thing is there to do on a weekend than spend it with friends and make a memory? While we can't go out to make those memories, we can always do it while listening to this song with friends and just imagining what shenanigans we'll get into chasing after a Galway girl.

fun. "We Are Young"
Weekends are the best time to party because you can stay up late with no repercussions. Sleep schedules mean nothing anymore and you can stay up all night zooming with your friends and creating great stories to tell next semester.

OK Go "This Too Shall Pass"
Don't forget that all weekends – even the ones that never seem like they end – end. Like the song's repeated lyric says "when the morning comes this too shall pass." We'll all look back on it, and we'll see all of the bad things. So, if you're having trouble right now, just remember that even when things seem like they'll never end, they will.

B.O.B. "Airplanes"
When I thought about Haley Williams singing, "can we pretend that airplanes in the night sky are like shooting stars? I could really use a wish right now?" It made me think about how I feel at the beginning of every weekend, wishing that it'll be great and that I'll remember it. Right now, I kind of wish we all would think about the few good things that we still have.

Student Publications Editor Applications are now open

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The Alabamian

How an Extra Year of Eligibility Affects Spring Athletics



Graphic by Bell Jackson

By Xander Swain

The pandemic has caused confusion among students, but with spring athletes, there's been a lot of different ups and downs. The pandemic caused spring seasons to end early and left seniors with an abrupt end to their last chance at competition. The NCAA, however, has given a chance for these seniors, as well as every spring athlete to compete for an additional year by allowing an extra year of eligibility.

Read more at: http://www.thealabamian.com/?p=5143

NEWS

SGA RECAP

Harrison Neville, SGA columnist

The SGA Senate held its second Zoom meeting this past Wednesday, April 8. The meeting started with a brief update from SGA President, Olivia Eldridge, about the possibility of students receiving refunds for on-campus fees, room and board.

Among other things, the SGA also passed two bills: Bill 1920-B-038 "Allocation of Funds to Purchase Supplies for 3D Face Shields During COVID-19 Outbreak" and Bill 1920-B-038 "Allocation of Funds for the Creation of an Electronic Constituent Report System."

Read more at: http://www.thealabamian.com/?p=5139

Pita Pit in Farmer is delayed due to Covid-19

By Harrison Neville, Copy Editor

"We are really excited about the change to Pita Pit and appreciate our students' patience," said UM President Dr. John Stewart.

This story goes into detail updating students on the latest news that we have involving the installation of Pita Pit as a replacement to Moe's in Farmer and when students can likely expect that to happen.

Read the full article at: http://www.thealabamian.com/?p=5141

Opinion

Tips for maintaining mental health during quarantine



Illustration by *Valerie Flynn*

By Jamie Browder, Managing Editor of Content

Quarantine is tricky, and degrading mental health is one of the scariest parts of it all. Here are some tips that might help make your quarantine environment and experience a little better. Tips include suggestions for activities, ways to stay organized and productive and how to discover healthy meal options.

Read the full article at: http://www.thealabamian.com/?p=5136

Unemployment is a Pandemic

By Jamie Browder, Managing Editor of Content

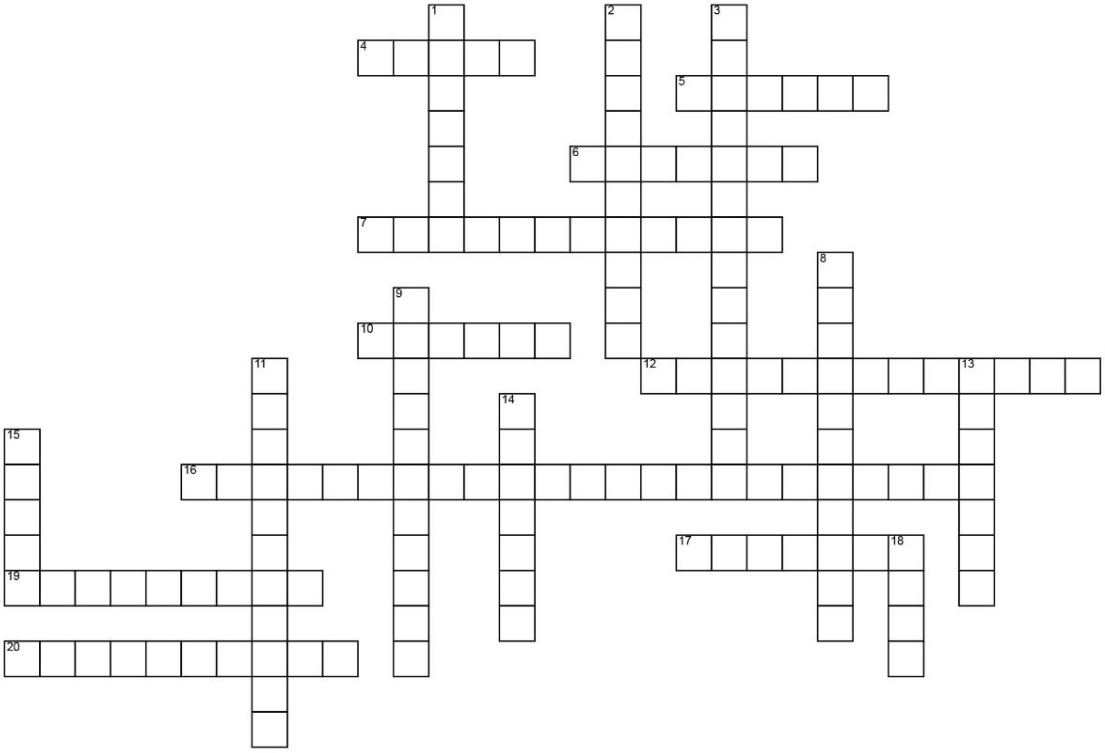
A personal look at the inside of being unemployed during a pandemic, and what it's also like being a soon-to-be graduate who is going into the work force. From filling out applications to worrying about the financial state of our country, this is a viewpoint on what it feels like to be on the underside of a wave called pandemic.

Read the full article at: http://www.thealabamian.com/?p=5134

LIFESTYLES

Hobbies

By Waid Jones, Editor-In-Chief



ACROSS

4. UM's own Dr. Scott Varagona is a champion at this popular strategy game.
5. People who play this as a hobby often develop callouses playing this 6-stringed instrument.
6. People doing this were featured heavily in the film "The Big Lewbowski."
7. Tony Hawk is one of these.
10 Someone who enjoys doing this spends a lot of time outdoors, Ruffner Mountain has some great places to this too.
12. Adult versions of these have become particularly popular in recent years.
16. The class that we all thought we were going to get to take in college, you'll need a snorkel and some reed for this one.
17. If this is your hobby of choice then you're likely to spend hours by the lake.
19. A person who plays this poker is sometimes referred to as a ____ Shark.
20. Sometimes is nice to sit down and write about nothing to get your mind off things, at least that's what people who do this sometimes say.

DOWN

1. It's a traditional Japanese skill toy, that involves a ball a stick and a rope.
2. If you're enjoying "Animal Crossing" right now, you enjoy these.
3. Admittedly this one's a hard one, it's ok if you look it up, but you shouldn't have to because you're being one right now.
8. A person who collects coins might be one of these.
9. People who do this are sometimes members of the Audubon society.
11. Ron Swanson and Jethro Gibbs are among those who do this.
13. Paper + [THIS] = crane.
14. This party going hobby was invented in Japan in the late '80s.
15. Whether it's close up are far away, people who do this are trying to pull the wool over your eyes.
18. You might get a hole in one if this is your hobby.



By ALEX WARREN

Aries You may be feeling very confident in your skills, but don't get ahead of yourself. Always think before you take action.

Taurus You are full of knowledge and power this week. Take a stride and learn something new, or explore the outdoors!

Gemini You may have to work on a project or with someone you don't really want to this week. Take a deep breath and take it one step at a time.

Cancer If you have been meaning to have a heart to heart with someone close to you, now is the best time. Trust in your relationships and be honest!

Leo You may be growing in your relationships this week. Don't forget that it's important to have a balance in relationships, as they are never a one sided ordeal.

Virgo You may be feeling sensitive, even with those you are close to. Be cautious in how you treat them, as it may not be clear what is bothering you.

Libra You may be overwhelmed with the amount of projects or tasks at hand. Take a step back and think about the best ways you can balance it all.

Scorpio If you've been feeling conflicted on your relationship with a loved one, take this week to do some inner thinking and reflection before taking any action.

Sagittarius You may find yourself receiving a sum of money. Be smart and organized, and keep a level head so as to ensure your good luck.

Capricorn You have the opportunity to successfully try new things and reach new goals this week. Be bold, and the outcome may truly be the one you wish for.

Aquarius Journaling or meditating may help you decide how to handle whatever emotional turmoil you may be going through right now!

Pisces You may be struggling with deciding to pursue what you enjoy versus what you need to do. Ground yourself and focus on the big picture.

Spotify PLAYLIST

By Waid Jones, Editor-In-Chief

SOUNDTRACK FAVORITES

We're all in this together (High School Musical)
If you're not already singing along to this song, I'm not really sure what's wrong with you. High School Musical was a defining part of my childhood and every time I hear this song it requires a sing along. It sums up the mood of High School Musical and gives you that warm feeling inside.

Let it Go ("Frozen") -- Idina Menzel
This is now stuck in your head; you're welcome.

No Time to Die ("No Time to Die") - Billie Eilish
Exuding new school cool, the title song of the upcoming James Bond film marries the musical stylings of Bond intro songs with a slow and soft croon from Eilish into one of the best Bond opening tracks yet. The background beat of the track pushes the music forward as the orchestra ebbs and flows with Eilish until it hits an ultimate crescendo at its climax.

Cups ("Pitch Perfect") -- Anna Kendrick
When Kendrick's character performs this song on stage during the auditions portion of "Pitch Perfect" it sets up her character and functions as an amazing turning point in the movie. The song's great to sing along too, and it's even more fun if you learn the cup movements too.

Do you Want to Build a Snowman? ("Frozen") -- Kristen Bell, Agatha Lee Monn and Katie Lopez
Yes.

Dancing Queen ("Mama Mia") -- ABBA
It almost feels like cheating to put a song from a musical made from the music of ABBA on this list, but to be honest, both the song and the movie are just too good to be left off of this list. The perfect song paired with an equally perfect cast means that not only can you sing along to this, but it sparks just the right feeling in you too.

Shallow "A Star is Born" -- Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper
This song won an Oscar for achievement in music. It sums up the entire plot and the underlying feeling of the film, while giving us an amazing moment between the films main characters. It sums up the journey they've gone through and encapsulates it in a 3 minute and 36 second wrapper.

Take My Breath Away ("Top Gun") -- Berlin
This song's infectious baseline exudes 1980's cool. It's truly a song that you can ride off into the sunrise too.

Don't You (Forget About Me) ("The Breakfast Club") -- Simple Minds
This song does everything you want from a soundtrack. It replaces any preconceived notion you have about it with the feeling from the movie. Every time I hear this song, I see Bender walking off into the sunset with a boom box over his shoulder.

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The Alabamian

UM moves April orientation to digital platform



Photo courtesy of University Marketing and Communication

By Zoe Hall, Lifestyles Editor

After college campuses closed, admissions offices are now challenged with how to accommodate incoming students. While Montevallo has not yet made a decision about summer orientations, the early orientation for freshman for April was online.

Read more at: http://www.thealabamian.com/um-moves-april-orientation-to-digital-platform/

NEWS

SGA RECAP

Harrison Neville, SGA columnist

It's been an unusual year for the SGA senate, but it has come to an end for this particular group.

Read more at: http://www.thealabamian.com/sga-recap-april-15/

LIFESTYLES

First-generation college students' feelings on August commencement



Photo by Kat Bell

By Harrison Neville, Copy Editor

"I had anticipated to graduate in May -- party plans had been in the works, my parents and in-laws prepared to watch me cross the stage as one of the first people in the family to earn a

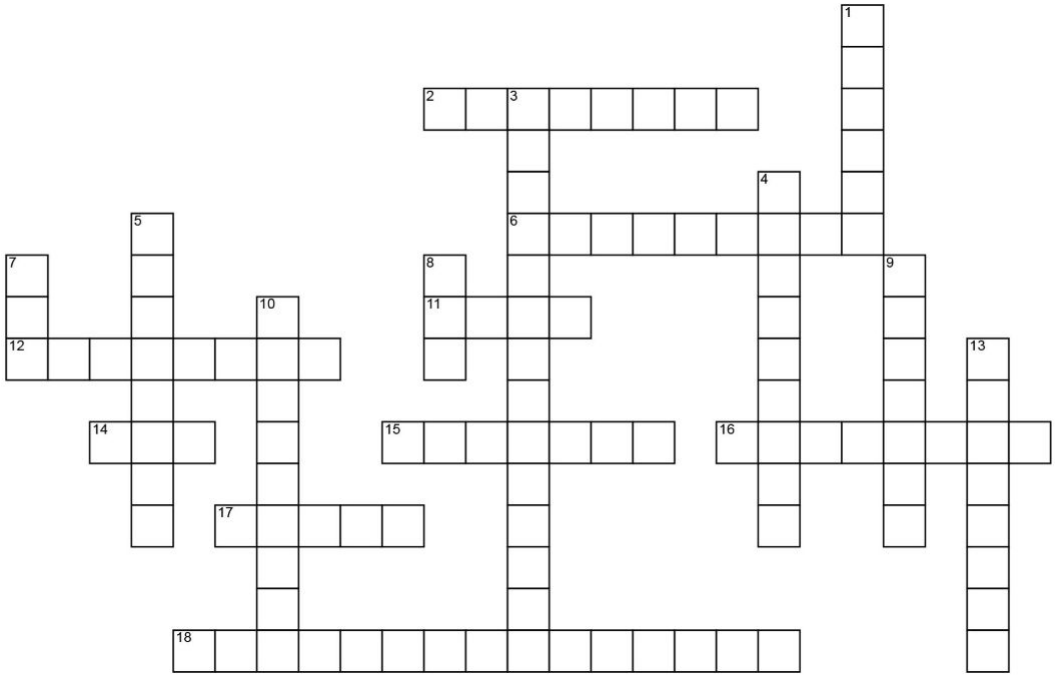
bachelors. I was dismayed, angry, even depressed when I received the email which pushed graduation back to August," said Thomas Reid.

Hear from some of UM's own first-generation seniors on how the delaying of commencement is affecting them, and their take on the University's decision to delay commencement until August.

Read the full article at: http://www.thealabamian.com/first-generation-college-students-views-on-commencement/

Things You Find in Your Home

By The Alabamian Staff



ACROSS

2. Be kind, you'll rewind back in time when you see your family's collection of these.

6. These collectable bobble-heads probably have your favorite character.

11. You might be the kind of person who keeps trying to bake homemade sourdough in here.

12. Gilded prizes that some parents keep on top of bookshelves gathering dust forever.

14. Soft nest that's very hard to leave.

15. Both clean and dirty piles of this always accumulate in that one spot in your room.

16. If you have one of these 90's bubbly bad boys to light up your space, you're the coolest.

17. You have a whole stack on your nightstand to go through, but you haven't picked one up yet.

18. A large cooking implement made of an incredibly awesome material that retains heat well and should never be cleaned with soap and water.

DOWN

1. These come in all shapes and sizes, but most die easily.

3. These soft toys are always ready for a hug.

4. Collecting spot to pin all your pictures, memorabilia and to-do lists.

5. A fuzzy object that dogs love to eat, but humans wear to stave off the cold in the morning.

7. A soft, pointy and independent individual who probably doesn't like you being home so much.

8. A soft and clingy individual who is very happy you're home so much.

9. Apple, spruce, vanilla: I used to go to Bath and Body Works just to smell these.

10. Those things you never open, but your professors insist you should spend money on.

13. The device that serves as your primary means of communication in coronavirus and also allows you to play complex MMO's.



By ALEX WARREN

Aries You may suddenly feel motivated to work harder this week. Plan goals for the future, and take the necessary steps to better yourself and your career.

Taurus You may realize that the upcoming future is a time for new beginnings. If you have been daydreaming about projects for a while, now is the time to take steps to bring those to life.

Gemini Although you may be a social butterfly, it is okay to take time for yourself. Don't feel ashamed if you aren't as outgoing as usual this week.

Cancer Due to changing circumstances recently, you may have realized that you needed to let some things go. In the near future, you might want to focus on what is a priority to you.

Leo You may be given the chance to enhance your career in the next few weeks. Keep pushing through, and good things will come your way.

Virgo Things may not be going your way right now, but new beginnings are coming soon. Hold your head up and keep working hard, or you may miss them.

Libra Don't be surprised if you've been feeling more romantic lately. This week you will have a clear mind to navigate the challenges of relationships.

Scorpio You may be finding creative ways to maintain your relationships during this time. The effort you are making shows, and you should keep doing so.

Sagittarius You may have more free time right now, but you should be using this wisely. Take this time to start to take care of yourself, mentally and physically!

Capricorn If you are currently single, don't be afraid to virtually mingle with other singles! If you are in a relationship, this week would be a good time to remind them what they mean to you.

Aquarius You may be tired of the same routine every day, but be ready for a possible shift in your schedule this week. Take care of what is most important first, and the rest will fall into place.

Pisces You may want to lean on friends and family this week, and that is perfectly okay! Don't let yourself be distracted by what's not important this week.

Spotify PLAYLIST

By The ALABAMIAN STAFF

FEMALE ARTISTS

Horse Steppin' by Sun Araw
Horse steppin' is this weird surreal yet relaxing song. It's a kind of calm sounding amalgamation of some string instruments, electric piano, drums and unintelligible lyrics all accompanied by the sound of waves on the beach. Over all this is just a pleasant song to listen too.

Kick It Up A Notch by Original Cast of Starship
I found this song and the musical that goes with it through Spotify, which I was recently induced to get an account for, and I think that song does an excellent job hyping me up to really dig down and "kick it up a notch."

In Your Eyes by The Weeknd
All of The Weeknd's new album is very catchy and easy to listen to without being too up-beat to focus to. The song's driving beat, as well as its fun synth and brass elements, make a really enjoyable pop song to study to.

Compatibility by Carson Paskill
As someone who prefers to study in solitude because I'm easily distracted, I opt for chill beats like this one while I study. The song has a soothing beat and unintelligible lyrics make for a good song for a more intense session of hitting the books.

Asleep on a Train by Radical Face
When I'm studying, I can't focus on songs with words – that's why this song is perfect. It's an ambiance track that sounds pretty much how you'd expect. It's great for those pretending they're not in their rooms writing an essay, but instead are traveling the countryside writing the next great American novel.

Drive us Bats by Neil Patrick Harris
Sometimes, this is just the bop I need to fit with my mood when I am studying. Because studying drives us even more bats than Batman.

Home by Undertale OST
Video game music always helps when I'm writing a paper because it feels like I'm in the video game. I really recommend this specific track because it's relaxing and upbeat – and you can play it on loop. It'll help your concentration and it'll remind you of the fun video games you'll get to play when you're finally done.

Harry Freakin' Potter by The Space Tour Cast
This song is a lot of fun and also somewhat ridiculous, which is really good for a serious study session. In my opinion the best way to do something serious is to listen to something ridiculous and the two vibes will help you proceed in a positive mood.

Share your address – Ben Platt
I always like to jam out to Ben Platt when I'm studying; it just feels right. This song is for that moment when you finally feel like you've got this - because you do.

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